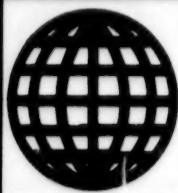


PRS-TEP-95-001
7 February 1995



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JPRS Report

Epidemiology

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Epidemiology

JPRS-TEP-95-001

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WEST EUROPE

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Six More AIDS Cases Registered 38

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Southern African Health Report Monitored 5-11 December

MB1112180394

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 5 to 11 December concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

Angola

Cholera—The cholera outbreak that hit Menongue in Cuando Cubango Province is partially under control. Of 240 reported cases, 16 people have died, according to Dr. Aguiar Vitorino Vicente, Cuando Cubango provincial health director. (Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 5 Dec 94)

Mozambique

AIDS—Records show that 80 people in the province have been infected with the AIDS virus, but that figure is bound to be just the tip of the iceberg, said the chief doctor for Niassa Provincial Hospital. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 4 Dec 94)

Namibia

AIDS—Abner Xoagub, acting manager for the Namibian National Aids Control Program, speaking in Windhoek on 30 November, said 9,980 people in the country had tested positive for HIV by the end of October. He added that "two to five people die of AIDS each month at major hospitals." (Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 1 Dec 94)

South Africa

Meningitis—There has been a sharp rise in the incidence of meningitis in the North-West Province. Since November more than 30 children have been treated for the infection in Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, and Lichtenburg. (Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 8 Dec 94)

'Mysterious' Joint Disease—Scientists have been confounded by a widespread mysterious disease in northern Natal found nowhere else in the world. Mseleni joint disease has affected a considerable number of people, starting in their teens, and more than 45 percent of women older than 40 in the Mseleni area are crippled by the condition. The Medical Research Council, MRC, has been studying the disease for more than two decades

without success and attempts to compare it to other endemic osteoarthritic diseases "have found it to be significantly different." MRC researcher Derek Yach said: "It was still not known whether the condition was caused by genetic, environmental, nutritional or other factors." (Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 8 Dec 94 p 4)

Southern African Health Report Monitored 12-18 December

MB1812153994

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 12-18 December concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

Mozambique

Tuberculosis—An average of 16,000 new cases of tuberculosis are recorded in Mozambique every year, but figures are rising yearly. The increase is closely connected to AIDS, poverty, and the war that is now over. Maputo, Nampula, and Zambezia are the provinces where the highest tuberculosis figures have been recorded. In terms of adult mortality, tuberculosis is the country's third-biggest killer disease, after malaria and diarrhea-related diseases. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 15 Dec 94)

Malaria—Between 300 and 400 cases of malaria per 1,000 children are reported in Mozambique annually. Preliminary studies from the National Health Institute say that five of every 1,000 children die from malaria. The figures were released at the ninth health workshop under way in Maputo. Dr. Martinho Djedje says malaria is the disease that claims more lives at many health establishments. He added Mozambique is a high-risk malaria country, particularly in coastal areas and swamps. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 15 Dec 94)

Zimbabwe

Bubonic Plague—Twenty-two people have died and 300 others have been infected by bubonic plague in Zimbabwe since the outbreak started in October in areas of Matabeleland, ZIANA, ZIMBABWE INTER- AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, NEWS AGENCY reported on 18 December.

Health and Child Welfare Minister Timothy Stamps said no new cases of the disease had been reported in the last 10 days and no deaths had occurred in the last three weeks. "But its too early to say the threat has been completely eliminated," he added. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1411 GMT 18 Dec 94)

Southern African Health Report Monitored 19-25 December

MB2512175994

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 19-25 December concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

Mozambique

Malaria—A total of 44 malaria cases, including one death, were reported at the Homoine health post in the third quarter of 1994. The post also recorded 22 cases of diarrhea, 14 cases of anemia, 14 cases of malnutrition, and five cases of diarrhea with traces of blood. A high percentage of sexually transmitted diseases has been reported, with 38 cases reported in one week. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 20 Dec 94)

Swine Plague—An outbreak of African swine plague recently killed 800 pigs in the Metuchira region of Sofala Province's Nhamatanda District. A control post has been erected on National Highway No. 6 to check vehicles entering Sofala Province. (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 20 Dec 94)

Zimbabwe

AIDS—ZIANA news agency has quoted Zimbabwean health authorities as saying that AIDS could make orphans of 5,000 Zimbabwean children within the next six months. Health and Child Welfare Minister Timothy Stamps says the government is exploring ways in which families affected by AIDS might be supported. (Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network English 0600 GMT 19 Dec 94)

West/Central/East Africa Health Reports Through 19 December

AB2312153094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of disease reports monitored from FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas from 6 to 19 December. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

Ethiopia

Forty-five people are reported to have died of meningitis in southern Omo, Bako (Gater) District. Medical officers had been giving medical assistance to 50 people a day since 3 December, the area's information office reported.

It has also been reported that the zone's health center has sent 7,500 injection ampoules to the district to fight the disease. (Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia Network in Amharic 0930 GMT 12 Dec 94)

Ghana

In its 14 December issue, the DAILY GRAPHIC published the outcome of a startling survey on goiter between 1991 and 1993 in three districts of the Upper East Region. It showed that between five and seven out of every 10 children aged eight to 14 had goiter. (Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Dec 94)

Guinea

The forest district of Macenta has been hit by cholera and at least 40 people have so far died. Eyewitnesses who arrived in Conakry from the area on 7 December indicate that Binikala, Bofosso, and (Badoulazou) were the hardest hit. Inhabitants of the affected towns have reportedly fled. There were 31,000 reported cases of cholera in the region between June and October and some 670 people died. (London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 8 Dec 94)

Guinea-Bissau

On 6 December, the director of health disclosed that 269 people had so far died from the cholera epidemic which broke out in October. The number of deaths recorded previously was 211. Furthermore, he indicated that the number of people who had contracted the disease had risen from 11,613 to 13,660. The capital, Bissau, has been the worst hit with 10,852 cases and 60 deaths. (Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 6 Dec 94)

Niger

According to a NIGER NEWS AGENCY report from Tahoua, the AIDS pandemic is spreading alarmingly as a result of migratory flux. The two hospitals in the prefecture recorded 574 AIDS cases in five years, including 182 for this year's first nine months only. Seventy percent of the virus carriers are people who generally return home from coastal countries they visit after crop harvests. The project known as AIDS-Emigration is implementing preventive measures centered mainly on awareness and information campaigns to check the spreading of the disease. For the three quarters of the present year Tahoua, which recorded 182 AIDS cases, has topped the list. It is followed by Niamey with 125 cases, Dosso with 14 cases, Zinder 12 cases, and Maradi 3 cases. Diffa and Agadez have one case each. (Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 19 Dec 94)

Nigeria

A Health Ministry official has disclosed that the Federal Government has released 1 million doses of yellow fever vaccines to immunize people in the three local government areas in Imo State, where the outbreak of the disease has been reported. He also disclosed that the disease had also been noticed in certain local government areas in Delta, Edo, and Benue States. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 9 Dec 94)

The Akwa Ibom State health and social welfare commissioner announced at a news conference in Oyo that between 1990 and June this year, at least 69 persons in the state were identified as being AIDS carriers. He said 36 of them had full-blown AIDS. He pointed out that the low level of awareness among the public, as well as inadequate screening and diagnostic centers compounded the problem. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 11 Dec 94)

According to a report released in Lagos by the Federal Ministry of Health, guinea worm cases have dropped by 88 percent. Incidence of the disease fell from over 650,000 cases in 1987 to 75,000 last year. Ondo, Enugu, and Sokoto States were more endemic with a total of 33,156 cases. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 11 Dec 94)

Tanzania

Seventy out of 1,218 cholera patients have died of the disease in Shinyanga Region since the outbreak of the disease in the region three months ago. The Shinyanga chief medical officer, Dr. Wilfred Masam, said the number of deaths is only of those patients who reported to health centers. He said it is feared that the number of deaths might increase because there are other patients who, despite being afflicted by the disease, had not gone to hospital and might have died at home or at traditional doctors.

Dr. Masam said that efforts to eradicate the disease in the region were being hindered by, among other things, citizens ignoring health regulations, and witchcraft beliefs which delay patients being taken to health centers as soon as the disease is detected in many parts of Shinyanga Region.

He said others are taken to health centers when their condition is already serious because of the delay. Dr. Masam called on Shinyanga citizens immediately to stop drinking well water without boiling it and also to cease bathing in puddle water during the current short rains season in the region, in order to check the rate at which cholera is continuing to spread in the region. (Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1600 GMT 9 Dec 94)

BURKINA

France Allocates 10.5 Million Francs To Fight AIDS, TB

LD1012145594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 10 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The new French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre is touring Burkina Faso. He was in Ouagadougou yesterday. He inaugurated a hospital and announced the formation of a new cooperation convention in the health sector. Our special correspondent, Farida Ayari, reports:

Ayari: The cooperation minister's visit to Burkina Faso was mainly devoted to health issues, issues with which Professor Debre—the head of the urology department at Hopital Cochin in Paris—is familiar. A convention worth 10.5 million francs—that is, 1.5 billion CFA francs—was signed toward an information campaign about AIDS and the prevention of the disease. Five percent of the inhabitants of Burkina Faso have been infected with AIDS. [passage omitted] This convention will also provide funds for the fight against tuberculosis and the availability of essential and generic medicine for people. Farida Ayari, Ouagadougou, RFI.

GABON

Unidentified Disease in Makoukou Reported

Several Deaths

AB1412105894 Libreville RTG Chaine Nationale Radio Network in French 1200 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Makoukou in the Ogooue-Ivindo Province, our local correspondent, Esoula Tchalou, reports on the misfortunes of some local inhabitants who went to the Mekouka Gold Mines in search of gold:

[Begin Tchalou recording]

Tchalou: Within an interval of two weeks, a large number of deaths have been recorded at the Makoukou Regional Hospital. Doctors have expressed their (?deep concern) about these unexplained deaths and the dramatic situation in which the local inhabitants find themselves. These reservations are notably due to the lack of appropriate equipment to diagnose this disease, the symptoms of which consist of diarrhea and vomiting. But on the other hand, rumors, [words indistinct], circulating in the circles of the bereaved families claim that during a [word indistinct] prospecting operation, some people discovered a troop of dead gorillas in the heart of the forest.

Apart from those who have died in the hospital, some naturally die outside or at the site. But the casualty list is far from being complete, for at the time of this broadcast, three more sick people had arrived at the hospital. It is very difficult to carry out a thorough investigation, because neither the Gendarmerie nor the medical service has gone to the scene of the incident. Worse still, the remaining people at the worksite have not left it. Anyway, this is a issue which will be reported on further. [end recording]

Claims 16th Victim

AB2312111994 Libreville Africa No.1 in French 0730 GMT 23 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Experts are on the spot to examine the mysterious disease raging in northeastern Gabon. The disease is not only attracting comments from the people, but has also claimed several lives. Just

yesterday it claimed the life of a young man in Makoukou. Toussaint Ngome has the details:

[Begin Ngome recording]

Ngome: This young man, aged about 21, was hospitalized a few days ago at the Makoukou Provincial Hospital together with some neighbors. Deeming the treatment being given him insufficient, he left the hospital to undergo traditional treatment on his own. Unfortunately, death knocked at his door, bringing to 16 the number of deaths caused by this new disease in Makoukou and its environs. The exact nature of the disease, which first broke out in the gold mining camp at Mekouka, 150 km up the Ivindo River, is still unknown. The Ivindo River provides the only access to this area. [end recording]

Disease Under Control

*AB2612175894 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 26 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation is still unclear in northeastern Gabon where a mysterious sickness claimed nearly 20 lives recently. The different expert missions which went to the field have not yet released their findings. Pending the release of the findings, Toussaint Ngome, our special envoy to the Makoukou area, observes that after the psychosis, the situation is slowly returning to normal.

[Begin Ngome recording]

Ngome: Makoukou and its environs are virtually calm in the wake of a series of deaths caused by a mysterious disease which broke out a few days ago at Mekouka. The sickness, whose exact nature still remains unknown to all, seems to have been brought under control. No new patient has arrived at the Makoukou Provincial Hospital lately and the five patients already there are doing much better. However, some pessimistic people talk of a fatal death for anyone who catches the disease as a result, they claim, of its mysterious character. Some talk of mercury poisoning. In this connection, a Malian suspected of throwing mercury into the river was taken in for questioning by the Makoukou Gendarmerie Brigade and released a few days afterwards for lack of concrete evidence. The hypothesis, however, of the anger of evil spirits is increasingly put forward by some, especially the relatives of the victims who claim that the gold washers braved the spirits by going to exploit an area hitherto forbidden to all since the closure of the first works site in the 1940's. It is hoped that the new investigations being carried out by the technicians of the Gabonese Ministry of the Environment will reveal the real nature of the endemic disease. Meanwhile, the Makoukou provincial health authorities yesterday launched a vast campaign against cholera, whose symptoms are similar to those of the mysterious disease. [end recording] [passage omitted]

MALAWI

Ten Percent of Population Could Suffer From AIDS

*MB0112081694 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 1 Dec 94*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Along with the rest of the world, African governments are having to come to terms with the way that AIDS is affecting large numbers of the economically active work force in their countries. One of the worst hit is Malawi. It is estimated that one in 10 people there may now be infected with the HIV virus and every minute seven people die because of it. [passage omitted]

MOZAMBIQUE

AIDS Statistics for Districts, Cities Cited

*MB0212072694 Maputo Radio Mozambique
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 1 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cabo Delgado Province has reported 28 AIDS cases in the past eight years, five of these in 1994. The city of Pemba, where the country's first AIDS case was reported in 1986, has the largest number of patients, followed by Mocimboa da Praia, Montepuez, and Macomia Districts. Jose Chivale, head of the Provincial Health Department's community service, said about 3 percent of blood donors are infected with the AIDS virus.

The Beira and Tete corridors, as well as districts bordering Malawi and Zimbabwe, have been regarded as high risk areas for the dissemination of AIDS. Large numbers of Mozambicans are being repatriated to those areas from neighboring countries where many AIDS cases have been reported to the WHO.

Unofficial reports say Manica District has recorded about 50 percent of AIDS cases among patients who have reported to local health centers. Barue District has recorded about 30 percent of AIDS cases among patients. In the city of Chimoio, 4 percent of pregnant women who attended prenatal consultations are infected with the virus. At the Chimoio Provincial Hospital it has been estimated that about 15 percent of patients are infected with the AIDS virus.

The city of Maputo is regarded as a stable area because it has the largest number of news media organs, and many hospitals are operational.

NAMIBIA

Health Minister Issues Warning on AIDS Threat

*MB0112065594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2250 GMT 30 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Windhoek Nov 30 SAPA—AIDS will kill Namibia's 1.6 million people in 20 years if

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not thwarted, Minister of Health and Social Services Dr Nicky Iyambo said on Wednesday. He said unless efforts were redoubled, the spread of HIV would not be contained. President Sam Nujoma will deliver a special address on Thursday to mark World AIDS Day. Almost 10,000 cases of HIV infection have been reported in Namibia.

NIGERIA

Defense Staff Chief on AIDS Program for Servicemen

AB2212222394 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1800 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief of defense staff, Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar, has said that the defense headquarters would provide necessary support for the Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS, control program, to check the disease among officers and men of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Abubakar gave the information in Lagos in a message to this year's Armed Forces AIDS campaign week. He said that already, a new policy guideline for the prevention and control of AIDS had been introduced in the Armed Forces. He stated that the guideline had been circulated to the different services for implementation. The chief of defense staff stressed the need for military personnel to adopt preventive methods to guard against contracting the disease.

RWANDA

Health Minister: AIDS Used for Genocide Purposes

EA2911205294 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French
1800 GMT 29 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Colonel Joseph Karemera, the health minister, will be in Paris, France, tomorrow to take part in the world meeting on AIDS which will take place on 1 December 1994 in the French capital. Forty-two countries, including Rwanda, are expected at the meeting. Observers note from the fact that the Rwandan minister has been invited to the meeting that there has been a certain change in French policy on Rwanda.

On the AIDS plague, the Rwandan health minister disclosed that Rwanda was among the most affected countries. It would thus be erroneous to underestimate the problem on the basis that the number of AIDS victims has been far lower than that of genocide victims.

Col. Joseph Karemera insisted on recalling that AIDS had been one of the means used by those who committed genocide in Rwanda: They forced Tutsi women and girls to be raped by AIDS victims. [passage omitted]

SOUTH AFRICA

Major Share of EU Aid Package To Fight AIDS

MB2712162294 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY
in English 27 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Linda Ensor]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London—A substantial part of the health budget of the European Union's (EU) aid package for SA [South Africa] this year will be earmarked for the national programme aimed at combating AIDS.

Projects' worth about 99-million ECUs had been approved by EU member states within the past month in the fields of education, health, community and rural development, the promotion of small and medium sized enterprises and good governance and democracy.

An official source said recently that of the R100m [rands] allocated for health, about R20m would be spent on fighting HIV infection.

This was also one of the main topics discussed by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma on her recent visit to Strasbourg and Brussels.

Zuma has also been invited to attend the joint assembly of the African-Caribbean-Pacific countries and EU member states to be held in Dakar on January 30.

Support for district health systems amounted to R25m, while R11.5m was allocated for locally based health care programmes.

An amount of R13m was set aside for technical support programmes to underpin the restructuring of the country's health system.

A total of R200m would go for educational programmes such as bursary schemes, national literacy and adult education programmes, skills training and employment projects and European scholarship schemes.

Community development projects in rural and urban areas received R50m, while R6.5m went to support and development programmes for small and medium-size businesses and R250,000 to trade unions.

The bulk of the R65m allocation for good governance and democracy went to the Justice Department.

About half the funds would be channelled through the government and about half through non-government organisations.

European parliament development committee secretary David Lowe said funds were distributed on the basis of the quality of the projects submitted. Non-government organisations had no reason to fear being excluded as long as their proposed projects complied with EU objectives and the reconstruction and development programme.

Medical Personnel To Receive National HIV, AIDS Guidelines

MB0112055894 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2041 GMT 30 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria nov 30 SAPA—Guidelines on treatment of HIV-infected people and those with AIDS will soon be made available to all medical practitioners and health personnel, the Medical Association of South Africa [MASA] announced in a statement on Wednesday. It said for the first time in South Africa those responsible for caring for HIV-positive and AIDS patients would be able to refer to nationally-accepted clinical guidelines.

The project, under the auspices of the Medical Association of Africa, involved a partnership between health and legal professionals and consumer groups with a special concern for, and expertise in, the management of HIV/AIDS. According to the statement International AIDS Society President prof David Cooper, as a group member, contributed towards aligning the South African guidelines to international standards, as envisaged by the national AIDS plan.

MASA quality care head Vicky Pinkney-Atkinson said the availability of the guidelines would provide patients and care-givers with confidence in their pursuance of high standards of care. One of the recommendations is the use of AZT to reduce perinatal transmission. Studies indicate that administration of the drug during pregnancy reduces the unborn child's risk of infection. Other aspects are non-drug therapy, pre- and post-test counselling, prevention and treatment of AIDS complications, use of AZT-like (antiretroviral) drugs and universal precautions. The statement said the guidelines were being refined for final approval and would probably be published in April.

SWAZILAND

Five Percent of Children To Be Orphaned by AIDS by 1996

MB2412200894 Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS
in English 24 Dec 94 pp 1, 32

[Report by Vusie Ginindza]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Five per cent of all children in the country will be orphaned because of AIDS related diseases by the year 1996.

This is the gloomy picture projected by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its report reviewing the mid-decade goals progress for the year 1994.

Already, 23 per cent of mothers aged between 15 and 19 years carry the AIDS virus, called HIV and, even more startling is the finding that females in this age group are infected at a rate four times greater than that of males.

The report says that despite an encouraging response to immunization campaigns on infant diseases that have been a problem in the past, such successes are blurred by such threats as the HIV (AIDS virus) epidemic.

Referring to the 1993 statistics from the National AIDS Programme Sentinel Surveillance Survey, 18.5 per cent among the sexually active population already carry the deadly virus.

About 18 percent and 58 percent of reported AIDS cases respectively, are in the 0-4 and 20-39 age group.

"It is estimated that by 1996, five per cent of all Swazi children will be orphaned because of AIDS," emphasises the report.

The alarming AIDS situation here is also stressed in a Summary Situation Analysis on Children and Women in Swaziland, also produced by UNICEF, which points out that a leveling off point may not be reached until 30 to 40 per cent of the population (about 300,000 people) are infected.

It is estimated that by 1998, over half the hospital beds in Swaziland will be occupied by AIDS patients. It says, because of AIDS, child deaths will shoot up.

"It is expected that by the year 2006, there will be 16 per cent fewer six-year-olds than there would have been in the absence of AIDS."

So far it has been established that a quarter of all infant mortality occurs during the neonatal period (at birth).

"Most of these deaths are related to low birth-weight, congenital syphilis or perinatal conditions. Fifty-five percent of all infant deaths occur between the second and sixth month of life."

UNICEF also says the pattern of infant deaths strongly suggests that most could have been prevented by relatively simple initiatives in the homestead and Tinkhandla by giving greater attention to improved ante- and post-natal care.

Deaths of mothers while giving birth has also been attributed to unprofessional deliveries noting that only 56 percent of such deliveries occur in health facilities.

In fact, it is reported that 75 percent of maternal deaths are due to direct obstetric causes of induced abortion, obstructed labour, hemorrhage (bleeding) and infection.

Teenage pregnancies account for 27 percent of all recorded deliveries, "a figure which could rise as the high population growth rate of 3.2 per cent creates a larger adolescent population," the report say.

ZAIRE

Surge in Epidemics Partly Responsible for Economic Collapse

BR2212163994 Antwerp GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN
in Dutch 22 Dec 94 p 6

[Unattributed article: "Epidemics Decimating Zairian Population Again—Belgians Gone, Diseases Back"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jean-Francois Rupol, a Belgian expert in the field of medical cooperation with developing countries, raised the alarm about the catastrophic situation of health care in Zaire. All epidemics and (local) endemic diseases which had been virtually eradicated during the Belgian period, are sweeping the country again these days.

The practically nonexistent health care is partly responsible for the Zairian economy's collapse. "The machinery, which had been very patiently acquired over the years, is badly damaged and almost nonexistent," Rupol stated Tuesday [20 December] night at a conference on Zaire.

"Some medical and paramedical teams are still working here and there in the government institutions, but the entire staff is completely demotivated. The public sector wages, which range from 6 to 100 Belgian francs a month, have hardly any purchasing power, and have not been paid for the last 5 to 15 months. The equipment is outdated, and the funds which are required for the health services' normal functioning are no longer available," the doctor said. He has been in charge of Belgian medical development aid in Rwanda until recently, and before that in Zaire.

"People no longer show up at work because they are not paid. Why should they bother to come, nothing is working anyway?" Rupol added. On the other hand, the sick can no longer afford any medical care or medicines. Medicines which have often already expired, are for sale on the black market at exorbitant prices.

Malaria

Rupol has just come back from a six-week trip through Zaire and found that there is a "catastrophic" trend in epidemics. Malaria has become the main cause of death, and sleeping sickness is more widespread than ever.

"While in 1958 only 1,100 new cases of sleeping sickness were reported in a total of 10 million people examined (1 per mill), 14,000 new cases have already been reported over the first nine months of the current year (2.4 percent), while fewer than 600,000 people have been examined. In some villages as much as 30 percent of the population suffers from sleeping sickness," Rupol stated.

In northern Zaire croup and cretinism occur frequently, as a result of a lack of iodine. The populations of Lower Zaire, Kasai, Central Zaire, and Upper Zaire are heavily affected by river blindness, whereas cholera and bacillary

dysentery occur in epidemic forms in eastern Zaire. Tuberculosis has also reemerged, as well as measles and polio, diseases which had been eradicated. All these diseases and epidemics are due to general malnutrition and various deficiencies, especially among children and pregnant women.

Rupol implicitly criticized the Belgian government's attitude. Belgium only provides humanitarian aid through non-governmental organizations [NGO's] because official development aid has been suspended. "The state should not be ignored, it is there and it should play a role. Of course, no money must be spent if there are no positive effects. However, Africa and Zaire must be helped, because we still need these countries. We should not wait until a disaster occurs such as in Rwanda," the doctor said.

On his return from Zaire, Rupol was dismissed by ABOS (General Administration for Development Aid, which is the Development Aid State Secretariat's administration), because on his own admission he failed to inform his supervisors of his mission. He is currently working for the NGO's.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Says Nation Neglects Health Care

MB0712182394 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1758 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Harare Dec 7 SAPA—Zimbabwe's health and child welfare minister Timothy Stamps said on Wednesday not enough money and interest was being placed on health in his country, ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] national news agency reports.

"I wonder if Zimbabwe is serious and interested in health at all, judging by the amount of money set aside," said Mr Stamps when he received a donation from the Netherlands Government to the National Aids Council of Zimbabwe. "France has almost exactly the same number of reported HIV-positive persons as we estimate to be suffering from AIDS in Zimbabwe, about 100,000. Medical costs per patient are about ZD240,000 [Zimbabwe dollars].

Official Says AIDS To Orphan 5,000 Children Within Six Months

MB1812145494 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1408 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bulawayo Dec 18 SAPA—AIDS will result in 5,000 Zimbabwean children becoming orphans in the next six months, the ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] NEWS AGENCY reported on Sunday. Speaking at a ceremony marking International Day of the Family, Health and Child Welfare Minister Timothy Stamps said the government was exploring ways in which families fractured by AIDS could be supported. He did not specify how many of Zimbabwe's children had already been orphaned by AIDS.

Official Says 70 Percent of AIDS Cases 'Intravenous Drug Addicts'

HK2712071594 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 27 Dec 94 p 6

[By Chan Wai-Fong: "70pc of AIDS Cases 'Are Drug Addicts'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seventy per cent of people testing positive for AIDS in China are intravenous drug addicts who share needles, a senior medical official said.

Wang Zhao, deputy director of the Diseases Control Department of the Ministry of Health, said most of the cases were found in the southwestern border area of Yunnan.

Ms Wang was in Hong Kong at the weekend for United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) fund-raising activities for China's campaign to eradicate polio.

AIDS remains a highly sensitive subject in China, where public awareness of how HIV is transmitted is low, and most Chinese still believe the disease attacks only foreigners.

According to latest government statistics, 1,435 people have tested positive for HIV, and 40 of them have full-blown AIDS.

But scientists and other experts believe the number of victims is probably higher. As many as 40,000 Chinese are estimated to have been infected.

Mainland medical officials have blamed the spreading of the disease in China on its open-door policy, since prostitution, drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases were almost wiped out before the late 1970s.

Ms Wang admitted the number of AIDS victims in China was increasing—a trend which had caused "considerable worries".

While 70 per cent of the victims were drug addicts, Ms Wang said the remainder caught the disease mainly through sexual contacts.

They included foreigners and Chinese who became infected while working overseas.

But experts said the figures might fail to reflect reality because only foreigners, drug users and Chinese who have worked overseas are tested in large numbers in mandatory screenings in China.

A different picture was presented by researchers at the Beijing Union Medical University, China's top medical college, at a recent AIDS conference.

They said 51 per cent of China's AIDS victims were in their 20s and increasing sexual contact was leading to the spread of the virus.

They called for more publicity about the dangers of AIDS.

More Cases of AIDS Infection Found in Guangdong

HK3011153394 Hong Kong TA KUNG PAO in Chinese 30 Nov 94 p 4

["Special dispatch" from Guangzhou: "The Number of AIDS Infection Cases Has Markedly Increased in Guangdong"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guangzhou, 29 Nov (TA KUNG PAO)—Guangdong Province now ranks second among other provinces in China in terms of the AIDS infected population, next only to Yunnan Province. The situation is likely to worsen.

Since the first case of AIDS infection was discovered in Guangdong Province in 1986, so far a total of 97 cases of AIDS infection have been identified in the province (48 related to Guangdong natives, 19 related to patients from other provinces, and 30 to overseas Chinese and foreigners). Three of the 97 cases involve patients with AIDS symptoms (one patient is a Guangdong native and another is a foreigner). These AIDS infection cases were spotted in 10 cities of Guangdong Province: Shantou, Jieyang, Chaozhou, Guangzhou, Meizhou, Foshan, Shenzhen, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, and Zhanjiang. Of these cases, 30 were identified in Shantou, Jieyang, and Chaozhou, accounting for 60.5 percent. It is said that 44 of the infected were found to be infected with AIDS on their return to China after staying abroad for visiting relatives, doing business, studying, or working; 24 of them admitted that they had had casual sex while staying abroad. This indicates that the most of those in Guangdong who are identified as being infected got infected abroad. There are four cases in which the source of infection was the victim's husband, indicating that there are already cases of local infection in Guangdong. This year has seen a remarkable increase in the percentage of AIDS infected patients in Guangdong, which has drawn the attention of the circles concerned. Experts present at yesterday's forum on the prevention and control of AIDS in Guangdong Province held that the province now faces many problems regarding the prevention and control of AIDS. Many people fail to recognize the importance of the prevention and control of AIDS, and there are some deficiencies in the public health work. For instance, too little effort has been made to monitor population groups highly vulnerable to infection by and spread of AIDS, which has made macroscopic decision-making difficult.

Public Health Minister on AIDS Prevention, Control

OW0412144194 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1553 GMT 1 Dec 94

[By reporter Zhang Youhao (1728 2589 3185)]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 1 Dec (XINHUA)—Addressing a government leaders conference on AIDS control here this afternoon, Chinese Public Health Minister Chen Minzhang said the Chinese Government has

taken the impact and harm of AIDS seriously and that a series of prevention and control measures have been unfolded.

Chen Minzhang said: From 1985, when the first AIDS case was discovered, through the end of October 1994, there were 1,550 reported HIV carriers and AIDS patients in China, of which 43 were AIDS patients (22 died). Chen Minzhang pointed out: Although the current rate of HIV carriers in China is comparatively low, the impact and harm of AIDS has aroused the high attention of the Chinese Government with the adoption of a series of countermeasures in accordance with China's conditions.

He said: China has established the State AIDS Prevention and Control Committee and the Venereal Diseases and AIDS Prevention and Treatment Association, a nongovernment body. These two organizations have played an important role in promoting, organizing, and coordinating participation among governments at various levels, as well as various sectors of the society.

He said that the Chinese Government has been active in launching educational propaganda on AIDS prevention and treatment, attaching great importance to protecting women and children from being infected with AIDS, and paying high attention to international experience on the application of condoms to check and reduce the spread of the AIDS virus. Regular screening of blood transfusions against the AIDS virus has also been set up to ensure blood safety at the source.

Chen Minzheng said: The Chinese Government has been making serious efforts to prevent discrimination against HIV carriers and AIDS patients and to protect their human rights and dignity. Relevant laws and regulations and policies suiting China's conditions will be established and improved.

He pointed out that the Chinese Government has all along been supporting global activities on AIDS prevention and control. To intensify efforts in this respect, he put forward three suggestions to the meeting on behalf of the Chinese Government:

- With support from the developed nations, to hold regular high-level meetings for government and non-government organizations in designated areas and developing countries to coordinate their joint actions in AIDS prevention and treatment;
- To promote transregional and international cooperation in AIDS prevention and control, giving greater attention and support to developing countries in implementing relevant programs by extending the necessary financial and technical aid;
- To support adjacent countries in promoting regional cooperation projects on AIDS prevention and control; to enhance the ability of nations in implementing their middle and long-term AIDS prevention and control programs; and to step up training and exchange of international professional personnel.

Concluding his speech, Chen Minzhang said: "To meet challenges posed by AIDS, the Chinese Government has done a lot in both prevention and control, thus slowing down its spread in China. However, the dangerous factors for its spread in China still remain." He indicated that the Chinese Government will "take full advantage of its current low AIDS infection rate, stick to its key strategies, work harder to secure international cooperation and support, and try its very best to prevent the spread of the disease among its 1.2 billion people, and thus make positive efforts and contributions toward the world strategy on AIDS prevention and control."

Health Official Views Threat From AIDS

HK0212051394 Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE
in English 1349 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 1 (CNS)—Today is the "World AIDS Day" with its theme of "AIDS and Families". Director of the Sanitation and Antiepidemic Department of the Ministry of Public Health, Mr. Dai Zhicheng, called for paying more attention to AIDS and expressed that China was quite capable of reducing the harmfulness caused by this fatal disease to minimum.

According to the latest information released from a conference recently held here on current situation of AIDS and its influence to society and economic development in China, some 1,550 AIDS cases have been so far discovered in the country with full-blown AIDS sufferers being 43 in number. In Beijing, capital of China, some 23 cases of this kind were confirmed this year alone with 15 HIV carriers being Chinese citizens. Media in the country is loudly appealing: AIDS is increasingly endangering people's health in the country.

China had its first AIDS patient discovered within the country in 1985 and shortly after then, a network for keeping watch on this disease was set up in the country. By the end of May, last year, the Ministry had set up centres for monitoring AIDS-virus in 13 provinces and municipalities as well as 160 posts for this purpose across the country. In addition, some 200 laboratories for monitoring this fatal virus had also been set up at various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. According to statistics of relevant departments, over 300 HIV carrying foreigners were denied of entry of China by the country's health quarantine departments at its border check points and over 1,200 AIDS-infected Chinese citizens were sent to AIDS virus curing centres for treatment [sentence as received].

According to authoritative sources, the State Council's policies on prevention and treatment of AIDS and the "Strategical Programme on Prevention and Treatment of Venereal Diseases and AIDS (1995 - 2000)" formulated by the Ministry will come into force early next year.

In fact, a special group of the Policy Research Office under the State Council has earlier put forward its proposals to relevant departments on carrying out health education among citizens across the country with their content covering media's compulsory publicity on prevention and treatment of AIDS, education on knowledge of AIDS among pupils and students in primary and middle schools as well as colleges and universities. Such education should also be carried out among prostitutes and prostitute-visitors in detention. Various sexual-related services must be strictly prohibited.

Beijing Finds 23 New HIV Carriers; STD's up 95.7 Percent

HK0212054894 Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE in English 0829 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 1 (CNS)—According to Beijing's sanitation and epidemic prevention departments, Beijing has discovered 23 new AIDS virus carriers this year, amounting the city's figure of AIDS virus carriers to more than 80.

Among these 23 new HIV carriers, eight are foreigners, seven are Beijingers, and the rest are from other cities and provinces. Since the first case of AIDS was found in Beijing, 81 AIDS virus carriers have been discovered in the city, of which 42 are foreigners and 22 are Beijingers.

Based on statistics conducted by the city's sanitation and epidemic prevention departments, cases of various kinds of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) found in Beijing have grown by 95.7 percent in number by November this year than the same period of last year, posing a serious threat to Beijingers' health.

Beijing has taken measures including demanding all those Chinese infected by AIDS virus to go back to their original hometown to receive treatment, all foreign AIDS carriers to leave the country.

Beijing has set up 30 organizations and labs for monitoring and prevention of AIDS and STDs, focussing on nearly 10,000 local residents as well as foreigners either dwelling in Beijing or entering the country through Beijing.

AIDS, Other STD's Spreading; Blood, Donor Testing Urged

HK0212130294 Beijing CHINA DAILY in English 1 Dec 94 p 1

[By Zhu Baoxia: "Activities Help Raise Awareness of AIDS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The country has been mobilized this week for activities aimed at curbing the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) which is causing growing concern in China.

Activities have been carried out nationwide in advance of today's World AIDS Day, whose theme is "AIDS and the family."

Data from the Ministry of Public Health show that 1,453 people have tested positive for HIV, the virus linked to AIDS, since the first case was detected in China in 1985.

HIV-positive cases have been reported in 22 of the country's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

Of the HIV carriers, 1,174 are Chinese, and more than 70 per cent were infected through intravenous drug use.

Of 23 new people who have tested positive in Beijing this year, eight are foreigners.

A total of 1.13 million patients with sexually transmitted diseases have been reported nationwide over the past 17 years.

In the first quarter of this year, 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities reported 64,000 cases of sexually transmitted diseases, a rise of 39 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The increase in Beijing is about 95 per cent.

Although China is still among the countries with a low incidence of AIDS, the disease could spread rapidly in the next decade if preventive measures are not taken immediately, according to experts attending an international symposium yesterday in Beijing.

HIV testing of blood donors was a major topic at the symposium, on the social and economic impact of AIDS.

Some Chinese and foreign researchers appealed to the government to tighten up examinations of blood for clinical use to curb the spread of AIDS in the country.

The Ministry of Public Health asked local health departments to strengthen the management of blood products last spring.

Medical units across the country have been asked to test blood products for both clinical and laboratory use for HIV.

So far, such testing has been carried out only in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Yunnan Province.

Three blood donors in Beijing and Shanghai have been found to be carrying the virus.

A report from the Beijing Information Research Institute estimates that some 196 blood donors across the country have been carriers of the virus.

If blood testing is not carried out immediately, some 3,000 to 7,000 people will be infected in the next decade, the report says.

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Another study by the institute found that most people are willing to pay for HIV testing when they receive blood transfusions.

Institute experts at the symposium suggested that the State offer grants and loans for local districts to set up laboratories for blood testing.

Experts also called for a nationwide inspection of the management of blood products and for mass publicity campaigns to inform the public of the importance of blood testing in AIDS control.

In other AIDS-related activities, a Chinese delegation headed by Health Minister Chen Minzhang left Beijing yesterday to attend a global summit on AIDS, which opens today in Paris.

A three-day national workshop on AIDS control ended yesterday in Beijing.

This afternoon, a seminar targeted at young people will be held in Beijing Medical University.

The Beijing Health Bureau will offer advice on a television programme tonight and AIDS-related activities will be held at the major hospitals in the capital.

Qinghai Registers 'Drastic Decline' of Six Endemic Diseases

OW2512022694 Beijing XINHUA in English
0059 GMT 25 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Xining, December 24 (XINHUA)—The incidence of six endemic diseases, including the plague, iodine deficiency, hydatid disease and brucellosis has registered a drastic decline in recent years in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

According to medical authorities here, a total of 4.6 million people of 30 nationalities in Qinghai have been plagued by at least one endemic disease.

The local government has allocated 1 million yuan in each of the past 14 years for the treatment and prevention of six major endemic diseases.

Local public health departments have conducted investigations on the distribution of such diseases and publicized preventive measures during mass rallies and festivals.

The provincial quarantine department has opened more quarantine stations to prevent the entry of other diseases that may be brought in by the 300,000-strong transient population.

As a result, the number of people suffering from epidemic diseases and mortality rates have declined drastically. There has been basically no report of plague incidence this year.

Leprosy Almost Eliminated in Liaoning

OW1612021594 Beijing XINHUA in English
0205 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shenyang, December 16 (XINHUA)—Northeast China's Liaoning Province has almost completely eliminated leprosy, according to China's Health Ministry.

Leprosy, a chronic infectious disease which damages the nerves and skin, was endemic in the province before Liberation in 1949.

According to officials of the province, in 1949 there were 1,949 cases of leprosy in Liaoning. Later, 1,906 of them were cured, 13 patients recovered naturally and 172 died. Only 30 patients are still under treatment now.

By the standards of the ministry, if the disease rate among the population is below one in 100,000, and over five years the annual incidence of the disease is below one in 200,000, it is considered as close to elimination.

At present, the two indices of the province are one per 70 million and one per 200 million.

Liaoning will be the third area in the nation to wipe out the disease, after Shandong and Shanghai.

World Bank Loan Benefits Tuberculosis Patients in Liaoning

OW0512125494 Beijing XINHUA in English
1157 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shenyang, December 5 (XINHUA)—A tuberculosis control project using the World Bank loans has already benefited hundreds of thousands of people in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

The project, using 3.29 million U.S. dollars of interest-free World Bank loan, started in May, 1992 to provide free treatment to infectious tuberculosis sufferers.

To date, the project has already been extended to 76 counties and prefectures, accounting for two-thirds of the province's total and treated more than 80,000 patients.

So far, the project has given medical check up to more than 80,000 suspected patients, discovered nearly 4,000 new patients and treated 930 patients suffering from recurrence of the disease.

The project, concurrently carried out in other 11 provinces and autonomous regions, will last for seven years.

Newspaper Reports Tuberculosis Under Better Control*OW0512105894 Beijing XINHUA in English
0926 GMT 5 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 5 (XINHUA)—China has made new progress in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, according to "HEALTH NEWS".

A national meeting held in Guangzhou said that by the end of September, China had already carried out health check-ups on 1.42 million people, finding over 174,000 tuberculosis cases, all of which had been treated.

The meeting held by the Ministry of Public Health also disclosed that the cure rate of the newly discovered tuberculosis patients has reached about 90 percent.

The newspaper said that the Chinese Government has always attached great importance to the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.

In 1991, China borrowed 58.2 million U.S. dollars in loans from the World Bank to be used in a tuberculosis control project in 12 provinces including Hebei, Liaoning, Hubei and Guangdong, with a total population of 550 million. Along with local supporting funds, the total investment in the project amounted to 676 million yuan (79.5 million U.S. dollars).

Last year, the central government allocated three million yuan for implementing a tuberculosis control program in other provinces, including Qinghai, Shanxi and Anhui, with a total population of 300 million.

WHO Praises Mass Polio Immunization Campaign*OW0512105694 Beijing XINHUA in English
0916 GMT 5 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, December 5 (XINHUA)—The World Health Organization (WHO) today praised China's mass immunization against poliomyelitis, saying this would contribute to the eradication of the crippling disease in the western Pacific region by the end of 1995.

China, in collaboration with WHO, today conducted the first round of its second year of mass immunization against the poliomyelitis, giving over 80 million children under 4 drops of oral poliovaccine. Round two will be on January 5, 1995.

With China's large population, the WHO said, its mass immunization is crucial for the success of poliomyelitis eradication worldwide.

China is one of the six countries in the western Pacific where wild poliovirus is still endemic. The others are Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

Dr. Sang Tae Han, WHO's regional director for western Pacific, said with eradication efforts progressing well in China, global eradication is becoming a reality.

In 1993, a historic low of 1,147 polio cases has been reported from the western Pacific region, a remarkable decline from 5,963 cases recorded in 1990, thanks partly to WHO's expanded program on immunization.

The region's goal is zero polio cases by the end of 1995, five years ahead of the WHO global target.

Second National Polio Immunization Drive Launched*OW0512133094 Beijing XINHUA in English
1307 GMT 5 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 5 (XINHUA)—The second stage of a nationwide poliomyelitis immunization drive started today.

Today in China's capital over 3,000 hospitals and 1,000 mobile vaccination centers provided children under the age of four with oral polio vaccine doses.

Officials, including Chen Minzhang, minister of public health, and Li Qiyang, mayor of Beijing, went to the No. 1 hospital attached to the Beijing Medical Sciences University to help with the administering of pills.

The city expects to distribute 1.3 million oral polio pills within two days. Statistics show that over 99 percent of children in the city have so far been immunized.

Polio is a disease which cannot be cured but can be prevented through vaccines. China has set a target of eradicating the disease by 1995, and carried out the first round of the national immunization campaign in the winter-spring period of last year.

Lack of Resources Hampers Polio Eradication Effort*HK2412064694 Hong Kong EASTERN EXPRESS
in English 24 Dec 94 p 4*

[By Christina Wong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China's attempts to eradicate polio by the end of next year are being held back by a lack of resources. The vice-minister of public health, Dr He Jiesheng, said the country lacked the resources to wage a full battle against the disease. "We can only produce 300 million vaccines, though the existing demand is 400 million," she said.

The country is also short of funds to import more expensive foreign-made vaccines. Aggravating the problem is an acute demand for vaccine-transport facilities.

The doctor, who is in Hong Kong with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef), said vaccinations cost about 4.96 renminbi (HK\$4.52) a child.

She added that the lack of money could deter immediate action for medical checks and the collection of human-waste samples and treatment of polio in border areas and districts of poverty.

Next year has been set as the deadline for eradicating polio, but He said a large number of vaccinations will still have to be done after the year finishes. China stepped up its fight against polio last December by vaccinating all children under the age of four.

No new cases of polio have been found in Beijing, Shanghai or Tianjin. But some other provinces including Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Fujian and Hunan, still have traces of the disease. The incidence of polio has declined from 1,926 cases in 1991, to 1,191 cases in 1992 and 653 cases in 1993. This year, up to October, authorities had recorded only 131 polio cases, which is a 43 percent decrease compared with the same period in 1993.

Cases of Lung, Liver Cancer Increase in Beijing

HK0912152994 Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE
in English 1210 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, December 9 (CNS)—The illness and death rates of cancer diseases attacking Beijing residents are predicted to grow year by year in the decade from 1991 to 2001. By 2001, lung cancer cases will top the chart of these fatal diseases while liver cancer cases will be the second in this Chinese capital, according to a prediction concluded by the Beijing Research Institute of Prevention and Treatment of Tumour.

It is forecasted that liver cancer cases will, surpassing the stomach cancer by 2001, take the second place while cases of intestine cancer and pancreas cancer will also move up the chart. Among these cases, lung cancer cases suffered by both men and women will increase in the most rapid way.

The above conclusion is based on the Institute's forecast, according to which, the illness rate for cancer diseases in downtown of Beijing will rise from 162 per 100,000 people in 1991 to 180 per 100,000 people in 2001 whilst the death rate will also rise from 126 to 131 per 100,000 cases. The number of these two types of cases now is also on the rise in the capital's suburban areas.

The death rate of lung cancer cases in the suburban areas is rising significantly with the death figure doubling in the last ten years.

New Anticarcinogen Approved by Public Health Ministry

OW2912141794 Beijing XINHUA in English
1333 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Haikou, December 29 (XINHUA)—A new treatment for cancerous and other types

of malignant tumors has won approval for production from the Chinese Ministry of Public Health.

The biological preparation, developed by the Shenyang Xiehe Group, has proved to be highly effective through clinical diagnosis by the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and more than ten tumor hospitals nationwide, especially in the sectors of relieving the side-effects of toxins.

Yang Baohua, deputy director of the Chinese Fund for Cancer Research, said that the treatment has opened a new way for biological immunization and therapy for cancer.

Epidemiology of Melioidosis in China

54004804D Beijing ZHONGHUA LIUXINGBINGXUE
ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY]
in Chinese Vol 15 No 5, Oct 94 pp 292-295

[Article by Li Li [2621 0196], Lu Zhenzhi [7120 2182 6282], et al. of the Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology, Academy of Military Medical Sciences PLA, Beijing]

[FBIS Abstract] From 1975 to 1989, a total of 73 strains of *P.pseudomallei* was isolated from the water samples and the pathological samples of human and domestic animals in 13 counties and cities located in different latitude from four provinces Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, in China. Serological investigation demonstrated that the geographical distribution of the organism had a significant correlation with the positive rate of antibodies against *P.pseudomallei* and the native foci of the organisms distributed over the southern sub-tropical zone and the edge of tropical zone in Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi. In endemic areas, the positive rates of antibodies against *P.pseudomallei* in human beings, horses, oxen and pigs are 3.8%-15.2%, 9.1%-18.4%, 6.6%-33.0% and 35% respectively. The investigation results showed the horses and mules infected by the organism would interfere with quarantine of the animals, meanwhile, the meat contaminated by the bacterium would endanger the public health. In September and October of 1989, three human cases in Zhanjiang and Sanya of Hainan were reported, two cases died of acute melioidosis with septicemia, another case was the chronic leg ulcers. So, it was predicated that there could have some cases of melioidosis which were misdiagnosed or missed out.

An Investigation on the Distribution of Leptospirae Interrogans in Water and Soil in Southwest of Yunnan Province

[Article by Yang Wenyong [2799 2429 2503], Pang Jingwen [7894 2417 2429], et al. of the Yunnan Provincial Institute of Epidemic Disease Control and Research, Dali]

[FBIS Abstract] The conservation of pathogenic leptospirae in water and soil is one of the important problems of geographical-epidemiological survey of leptospirosis. This investigation was conducted using

filtration-culture isolation method in five counties in the west and southwest of Yunnan during 1988-1992. The results showed that the isolates from samples of water and soil collected between July and September in Menglian and Huaping County were leptospirae biflexa while in the samples of water and soil collected between November and December in three counties, eight strains of L-interrogans were isolated from the samples of Gengma and Baoshan County. The total positive rate was 3.31% (8/242). The positive rate of

water and soil was 2.14% (3/140) and 4.9% (5/102) respectively. Strains obtained in this investigation belong to six serogroups: Icterohaemorrhagiae and Pyrogenes in two respectively, Canicola, Grippityphosa, Sejroe and Australis in one respectively. These serogroups of leptospirae obtained from water and soil were corresponded with the serogroups obtained from the patients and animals with leptospirosis in local area. This survey provided new data for expounding the structure of the focus of leptospirosis.

BRUNEI

Minister Says Mostly Foreign Workers Among 182 HIV Carriers

BK1912111894 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO
BULLETIN in English 30 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Achong Tanjong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The relatively high incidence of HIV among Brunei's immigrant work force was highlighted at a regional conference on health on Monday in the capital.

According to the minister of health, 182 persons were detected living with HIV as of 31 August 1994. And 163 of them were foreign workers.

So far only four local persons were detected to have been infected with HIV. Two of them are haemophiliacs contracting the infection from blood products received before heat-treated safe products were available. One of them developed full-blown AIDS and succumbed to it recently.

Earlier an AIDS case living overseas had returned and died here. This leaves just two HIV carriers in Brunei at present, the minister added.

Minister Datuk Paduka Dr. Haji Johar's speech was delivered at the third Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Border Health Conference by Permanent Secretary Datuk Paduka Haji Awang Chuchu.

Thailand also attended the conference as an observer.

HONG KONG

AIDS Cases Down to 3,000

HK0212060894 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA
MORNING POST in English 2 Dec 94 pp 1, 7

[By Alison Wiseman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The estimated number of people carrying the AIDS virus in Hong Kong has been revised down from as many as 7,000 to 3,000, although experts predict there will be a dramatic increase in the number of AIDS cases in the next few years. Based on the new figures, there are likely to be about 10,000 HIV carriers and between 1,000 and 2,000 cumulative AIDS cases by the year 2000.

The first scientific estimation and projection of AIDS and HIV figures in the territory carried out by the government's Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) was released yesterday to coincide with World AIDS Day. Professor James Chin, an expert on the disease and consultant to the ACA project, said the estimate of 3,000 HIV carriers was a conservative but workable one based

on existing data. "In the past, HIV estimates and projections have been made for advocacy reasons but unless they are realistic you run into problems with the public and policy-makers if you come up with an outrageously high number," he said.

The initial estimate for the number of HIV infections in Hong Kong was put at between 4,000 and 7,000. Professor Chin said health care professionals, including government officials, considered the new figures low, although he said the situation would be closely monitored to test the accuracy of the estimates and projections. "Governments usually want a low estimate while non-government organisations want a high estimate for advocacy reasons, but realistic numbers are needed for planning purposes," he said. "It is more important from a public health perspective to make as objective and realistic an estimation as possible. The figure can always be revised up but it is more embarrassing to revise it down."

Professor Chin said that past estimates had been based on very limited information, while the existence of more data now made it possible to produce more objective estimates. A Health and Welfare Branch spokesman said the Government was already aware that the number of AIDS cases would increase significantly over the next five years. "These new figures are helpful in that they give us a more accurate estimate of how the present trend will develop which in turn will allow us to plan and develop services accordingly," the spokesman said.

So far, only 505 HIV carriers and 122 cases of AIDS have been reported in the territory, but it is now estimated that the actual number of people with the disease is twice as high. In the past few years about 10 new AIDS cases have been reported annually but the figure has already risen to 30 so far this year, with predictions of 350 to 450 new cases of full-blown AIDS every year by 2000.

At the moment, just over half of all new AIDS cases involve people who contracted HIV through heterosexual activity but Professor Chin said this would rise to almost 80 per cent in the next few years. "Hospital and health care services are used to dealing with just a few AIDS cases each year but this will rise to several hundred in the next few years and so they will have to start preparing for this increase," the professor said. But the Hospital Authority deputy director, Dr Lawrence Lai Fook-ming, claimed the territory's public hospitals were already able to cope with the predicted rise in AIDS patients. "Even if we have hundreds of new AIDS cases each year only a small number will need to be hospitalised at any one time, while we already have the expertise and facilities," Dr Lai said. The ACA is now planning to carry out surveys on behaviour relating to HIV and AIDS.

SOUTH KOREA

ROK Deports 50 HIV-Positive Foreigners Since 1988*SK0212021094 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 2 Dec 94 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea has since 1988 deported 50 HIV-infected foreigners, most of them illegal workers from Asia, in accordance with a tight AIDS prevention program, the Ministry of Justice said yesterday.

Thais topped the list with 19, followed by Americans with five and Myanmar with four. Ghanaians and Nepalese shared fourth with three, the ministry said.

The other deportees comprise two each from Ethiopia, Belgium, the Philippines, Zaire, Kenya and Brazil, and one each from Taiwan, Indonesia, Poland and Nigeria.

In all 10 foreigners have been deported since January this year and the figure is likely to rise by the end of the year. The number of deportees hit a record 17 last year, a 40 percent increase from 12 in 1992.

The ministry statistics showed one foreigner was deported in 1988, three each in 1989 and 1990, and four in 1994.

"A majority of the foreigners deported were illegal immigrants from Asia," a ministry official said, noting that there is an urgent need to strengthen routine AIDS tests for the growing number of foreigners who are on long-term stays here.

At a seminar on World AIDS Day yesterday a professor contended that if a 30-year-old man falls ill with AIDS, the total loss shared by himself and the society will top 189.5 million won.

"Treatment charges are estimated at 2.5 million won and the remaining 187 million won is the indirect loss inflicted on society due to subsequent unemployment and early death," said Yang Pong-min, a professor at the School of Public Health, Seoul National University.

The spread of the pandemic is fueled by poverty, high unemployment, an increase in demand for commercial sex workers and sex discrimination against women, he said.

Imports of Herbs Used in Oriental Medicines Increase*SK2412024194 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 24 Dec 94 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Imports of herbs widely used in Oriental medicine surged to \$117.4 million last year, quadrupling from 1987, while exports remained flat, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said yesterday.

During the 1987-1993 period exports lingered around the \$20 million level. Sharp rise in herb imports pushed

trade deficit to a record \$99 million last year, nearly eight times higher than \$12.6 million in 1987, a ministry official said.

He estimated that imported herbs have expanded their market share to 70 percent since Chinese and other Asian herb dealers gained free access to the Korean market in 1987.

"Questions about medicinal effects of those imported herbs persist," the official claimed, noting that massive inroads of substandard herbs could place Oriental medicine at risk in the long run.

Korea is no longer a country exporting herbs to be used in Oriental medicines due to massive inexpensive herbs from China and other Asian countries.

PHILIPPINES

Health Secretary Reports 12 New Cases of HIV*BK2012030094 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 19 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Twelve more Filipinos have been found to be HIV positive. This was disclosed by Health Secretary Juan Flavio. Of the 12, eight are confirmed to have AIDS, or what is known as secondary infection; while the other four are HIV positive but have no AIDS symptoms yet. Of the new cases, 11 contracted the HIV virus through sexual intercourse while one contracted it through a blood transfusion. At present, there are 577 cases of HIV-AIDS in the whole country.

THAILAND

Over 1,000 Thais Said Infected With AIDS Virus Monthly*BK2012032494 Bangkok THE NATION in English
20 Dec 94 p A 2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Every month for the past two years, more than a thousand Thais have been infected with the virus that leads to Aids, Public Health Minister Athit Urairat disclosed yesterday.

Health Ministry statistics through the end of November show that 14,015 people have displayed Aids symptoms, Athit said. Ninety per cent of those picked up the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) alone over the past two years—not full-blown Aids—and 77 per cent are between 20 and 39 years of age.

The health minister expressed grave concern about the high percentage of people in their 20s and 30s contracting the virus and advocated avoiding any activity with the risk of infection. He urged young couples to undergo blood tests before marrying or having a baby.

Athit referred to statistics released by the World Health Organization (WHO) showing that up to the end of August, there were 985,119 HIV-positive cases world

wide. Earlier, the WHO had predicted that the number of cases would reach four million by the end of this year.

WHO statistics show that the United States has the world's largest HIV-positive population, followed by Brazil, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, France, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Zaire.

Committee Moves To Limit Import of AIDS Test Solution

'Not Suitable' for Public Use

BK1712111794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Dec 94 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National AIDS Prevention and Control Administrative Committee is moving to control the use of a solution to test HIV/AIDS from saliva.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been asked by the committee to immediately issue a regulation limiting the import of the solution to research purposes.

The FDA is drafting regulations on the solution and expects to announce them in January.

The solution will not be sold freely on the market or in drug stores as proposed by a private company.

The committee said the solution was not suitable for public use owing to the lack of pretest and post-test advice.

Costing 500 baht a unit, the solution may create some misunderstanding among people that HIV/AIDS is transmitted through saliva. Use of the solution also needs careful supervision.

The company, in its request to register the saliva test kit, said purchasers of the test kit would have to collect and monitor their saliva and send it to the firm by mail.

Results of the test would be given to purchasers by phone.

Test-Kit May Cause Confusion

BK2612030294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
26 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand will continue to control use of the saliva AIDS test-kit despite the fact that it has been approved by the U.S. Government's Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Thailand's FDA deputy secretary-general Banphot Tanthirawong confirmed yesterday that the FDA will soon announce a regulation to control all AIDS testing equipment by categorising them as "specially controlled medical equipment."

Dr Banphot said it is necessary to control AIDS testing equipment and solutions because their use requires pre and post-counselling.

"One strong reason for not allowing free sale of AIDS testing equipment is that people who are not trained to use such test kits may get inaccurate results. This could cause a social problem," he said.

Dr Banphot said although the U.S. Government's FDA has approved the saliva AIDS test, it would only be available from physicians and may be administered only by people trained to use it. It will not be available at drugstores, he said.

Under a draft regulation which is being forwarded to the Public Health Minister for approval, the saliva AIDS test-kit will only be allowed into the country after special permission is given by the FDA.

Dr Banphot said if the saliva AIDS test-kit is allowed into Thailand, it may confuse the public who have been told that the HIV/AIDS virus is not transmitted through saliva.

VIETNAM

Over 9.3 Million Children Vaccinated Against Polio

BK2112074694 Hanoi VNA in English
0646 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA December 21—By 15hrs of Dec. 19, more than 9.3 million under-five children in Vietnam got the second dose of vaccine against polio in the year. These children represent 94.5 per cent of the total children of their age group in the country.

Also during the second round of the ongoing immunisation programme, more than 7 million children aged from 6 to 60 months drank vitamin A, more than 34,000 children aged from 2 to 23 months in the mountain areas were immunised against measles and more than 347,000 women in the child-bearing age, pregnant or vulnerable to tetanus, were vaccinated against the disease.

UNICEF and who have disbursed more than one billion Vietnamese dong (roughly USD 100,000) to help Vietnam conduct this second nation-wide vaccination campaign.

BULGARIA**Over 240,000 Persons Reportedly Infected With Hepatitis C***AU1212121294 Sofia STANDART NEWS in Bulgarian 7 Dec 94 p 5*

[Report by Irina Chekeleva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gastroenterologists in Sofia have discovered that one in every seven of those infected with the hepatitis C virus contracts the disease at the dentist's. Over 240,000 Bulgarians are chronically affected by the most dangerous form of hepatitis. Most of them are between 18 and 40 years old.

Specialists predict that Hepatitis C will become a time bomb and will carry off more victims than AIDS in Bulgaria. The virus multiplies undetected and 20-30 years may pass before it makes its presence known in the form of cirrhosis or liver cancer. To date, about 100,000 carriers of the hepatitis C virus have been detected. Gastroenterologists believe that the real number is three times as great. The virus poses the greatest risk to those who have suffered jaundice, people with chronic liver conditions, and children. So far no vaccine is available to combat the virus.

Viral hepatitis is treatable if diagnosed within six to 18 months of its transmission. Women have better chances of being cured than men, the doctors say.

The Gastroenterology Center in Sofia is the only place in the country that offers a new test procedure for detecting the deadly virus. It is the fifth laboratory in Europe to conduct such tests. The improved test is reported to detect the virus, establish whether it is multiplying, and assess the effects of treatment.

ROMANIA**AIDS Group Reports 1,600 Cases in Constanta County***AU0512152194 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 1 Dec 94 p 1*

[A.C.-initialed report: "1,600 AIDS Cases in Constanta County"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Between 20 November and 20 December in Constanta County the Romanian Anti-AIDS Association (ARAS) is holding a public information campaign. Between 30 November and 7 December they are distributing information booklets about the HIV virus and AIDS, as well as displaying posters and distributing condoms in various parts of the city of Constanta. Using funds obtained from selling badges, the association will be organizing a Christmas party in an institute for HIV-infected children. The association's program also includes a "week of solidarity with those affected with AIDS."

Constanta County holds a sad record: Of the 1,600 infected with the AIDS virus, 900 are in the terminal phase of the illness. ARAS, within its modest means, is supporting both emotionally and, to a lesser extent, materially those suffering from AIDS.

Association Expects 10,000 AIDS Cases by End of 1994*AU0212115894 Bucharest COTIDIANUL in Romanian 29 Nov 94 p 5*

[Report by Cristina Ivan: "10,000 HIV-Positive Persons in Romania"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the opinion of Romanian Health Minister Iulian Mincu, cited by the Romanian Anti-AIDS Association (ARAS), since 1990 AIDS has been eradicated in Romania. However, according to information released by the very same ministry—and obtained by us from ARAS—the situation is not quite as good as that.

On 30 September, 2,907 AIDS cases were known throughout the country, most of whom, that is, 1,960 cases (67.4 percent) were reported among children aged one to four. By that date, the total number of AIDS cases among children aged one to 12 had reached 2,695. From the point of view of the way in which they were infested, in 882 cases the virus was transmitted via unsterilized medical instruments, whereas in a further 655 cases the source was the "transfusion blood containers."

Thus the percentage of persons who caught the disease in hospitals rises to 57 percent.

Despite the fact that, according to ARAS, the number of AIDS cases infested by unsterilized medical instruments is decreasing, the situation is still alarming.

On the other hand, they anticipate that there will be approximately 10,000 AIDS cases in Romania by the end of 1994.

We would like to remind our readers that, currently, there is absolutely no government program to offer social assistance to persons suffering from that tragic illness.

Report Views 'Explosion' in Congenital Infant Deformities*AU1412214094 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 9 Dec 94 p 6*

[Report by Florin Adrian: "Explosion in Number of Babies Born With Congenital Deformities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "In Romania, a country whose population is a third of Great Britain's, the number of children born with deformities, especially congenital ones, is six times greater. This situation has become alarming especially lately, both regarding the frequency and the gravity of the cases, so that deformities rank second among the causes of infant mortality, following traumas caused by accidents," Professor Dr. Alexandru Pesamosca, the head of the surgical clinic of the M.S. Curie Hospital, told us.

In the view of this eminent surgeon, the causes of this deformity "explosion" are not unconnected with the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, as

well as harmful factors (poor food supplies and living conditions, and stress) affecting pregnant women.

A special problem is congenital heart deformities, which in our country are operated upon only with children over seven, as we lack the proper equipment to operate on the younger ones. Whereas in the West they can operate on children immediately after birth, out of 2,000 such cases in Romania they can merely operate on 20 in their first years of life. "It is tragic that about 80 percent of such children die before they reach the age of seven, and this is caused either directly by heart deformities or by lung complications that appear later on. The same goes for children who have cancer, who—if they are not subjected to surgery and further treatment before they are five—have extremely low chances of survival. Compare this with the fact that elsewhere in the world children's cancer cases achieve an 80-percent success rate. Is it not necessary to set up a top-level, modern, fourth generation-type hospital in Romania, where children represent one quarter of the population, to deal with all surgical pathology?" asked Professor Pesamosca rhetorically.

YUGOSLAVIA

Serbian Health Institute Issues AIDS Statistics

AU0712142694 Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian
5 Dec 94 p 27

[Information supplied by "AIDS Advice Office, City Institute for Health Protection, 29 November, Street 54a, Belgrade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since 1987, when the AIDS Advice Office was set up, 812 HIV-positive persons have been registered. Of these, 298 were infected with AIDS and 241 have died. Among the infected, 69 percent are drug-users (see table below). Among heterosexuals, the number of infected women is rising significantly. In 1989 3 percent were women, in 1992—6 percent, and today they make up 10 percent of infected heterosexuals. Among those infected, 78 percent are men and 22 percent women. The number of infected women has been rising recently.

intravenous drug-users	206 persons	69 percent
heterosexuals	29 persons	10 percent
homosexuals	21 persons	7 percent
hemophiliacs	16 persons	6 percent
bisexuals	8 persons	3 percent
children of HIV-positive mothers	4 persons	1 percent
transfusion	3 persons	1 percent
cause of infection not identified	11 persons	3 percent

The table shows the number of persons infected with AIDS according to different groups in the total number of infected persons in our country.

Jaundice Epidemic in Bor Prompts Water, Food Controls

AU0712165594 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network
in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A jaundice epidemic has been officially proclaimed in Bor. There have been 58 cases so far. All necessary measures to curb this dangerous disease have been taken. Strict control of the water and food has been introduced.

Macedonian Health Institute Issues Statistics on AIDS, HIV

AU0712181294 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA
in Macedonian 1 Dec 94 p 5

["E.K."-initialed report: "Over 1,000-HIV Positive Cases in Macedonia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first person with HIV in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] was registered in 1987. The person with the virus was said to be a hemophiliac who became infected while using a device for treating hemophilia imported from abroad.

Since then, a total of 30 people have contracted the AIDS virus. Of these, 17 have fallen ill with AIDS, while the other 13 only have the virus. According to the latest information of the Institute for Health Protection of the Republic of Macedonia, of the total number of infected, 13 have died, although two persons are said to have died of some other disease. Of the four AIDS-infected persons still alive, only one lives in the country, said Dr. Sotir Sotirovski, an epidemiologist at the Institute. The rest of them went abroad from where, in fact, they had come to the country. Of the total number of infected and fallen ill (30) since 1987, 20 of them are AIDS cases imported from other countries, while the remaining 10 are hemophiliacs. Even though these figures are official, they are considered to be far from reality. According to the calculations based on the World Health Organization's formula, there are over 1,000 HIV-positive persons in Macedonia today. Of the registered cases so far, 21 are men and nine are women. Among them there are two persons under the age of six. According to the municipalities, HIV-positive or infected persons were registered in Prilep, Tetovo, Bitola, Stip, Skopje, Ohrid, Kratovo, Kicevo, and Kavadarci.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

South American Health Report Through 2 December

PA0312024894

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on South American public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 2 December.

Colombia

Seven people have died from AIDS in Cartagena during the past three months. AIDS cases have increased alarmingly in this city according to health authorities. The local AIDS attention center is caring for 40 AIDS patients. (Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 94)

Venezuela

Aragua State has registered the largest number of cases of dengue fever nationwide. According to a Health Ministry authority, the hardest hit states include Aragua, where 4,296 cases and three deaths have been reported, Barinas, with 2,496 cases and six deaths, and Tachira, with 1,743 cases. During the week of 12-19 November, 104 cases of dengue fever, 14 of which were hemorrhagic dengue, were detected. A 40-percent decrease compared with the previous week was also observed during the same period. (Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Nov 94)

South American Health Report Through 16 December

PA1712014294

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on South American public health and epidemiologic developments monitored through 16 December.

Venezuela

A 10 December, Caracas-dated item reports AIDS is the second leading cause of nonviolent death in Caracas, following pneumonia according to a 1993 study by investigator Hernan Mendez Castellanos. There are 680 known cases in Venezuela, a representation of only between 15-25 percent of the total number of people affected. The Central University of Venezuela believes there could be as many as 100,000 cases throughout the country by the year 2000. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1920 GMT 10 Dec)

Central American, Mexican Health Report Through 2 December

PA0312180194

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Central American and Mexican public health and epidemiologic developments monitored through 2 December.

El Salvador

A report datelined San Salvador quoting Salvadoran officials, says that there are currently 770 people under treatment for AIDS and 147 have died. According to Santiago Alameda, the chief of epidemiology at the Ministry of Health, there are anywhere between 16,000 and 30,000 people thought to be HIV positive, who are unaware of their condition. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1611 GMT 1 Dec 94)

Honduras

Public health authorities, according to a report datelined Tegucigalpa, have stated that there are "at least 70,000 people carrying the AIDS virus" in Honduras. Health Minister Enrique Samoya said that 5,987 people have been diagnosed HIV positive, 66 percent of whom have developed the deadly disease. The minister predicted that "200 people will die every week by the year 2,000." Furthermore, "Hondurans will lose 587 million lempiras (\$65 million) over the next six years, as AIDS victims are mostly economically active" members of the community. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1744 GMT 1 Dec 94)

Mexico

An investigative team of the Autonomous University of Mexico has reported that Mexico has 19,000 confirmed cases of HIV infection. An item datelined Mexico City, quoting Gloria Ornelas Hall, the assistant director of research of the Directorate of Medical Services, says that this figure conflicts with a report released by the National Epidemiologic Institute, totalling Mexico's AIDS cases at 29,000. Either way, Gloria Ornelas Hall said "it is disquieting to know that the government has no sex education programs for Mexico's younger population." (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2126 GMT 2 Dec 94)

Nicaragua

According to a report datelined Managua, Nicaragua is the Central American country with the least number of AIDS patients. Norman Jiron, a regional expert of the Pan American Health Organization, said there are currently 90 AIDS patients in treatment, while 61 people have died of the illness. Health officials have registered 168 HIV carriers who have not yet developed the disease. Nevertheless, "these cases could just be the tip of the iceberg," he said, "as there could be as many as 15,000 people infected with the virus," who do not know it. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2049 GMT 1 Dec 94)

An item datelined Managua quotes an official report stating there are 67 new cases of cholera in several areas around the country. Just this year 7,067 people contracted the illness, of which 115 died. Officials also stated that dengue is on the rise, as there are now 16,162 cases; among these, there are 81 cases of the sometimes

fatal hemorrhagic dengue. Although unconfirmed, there have been five deaths believed to be related to dengue fever. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0033 GMT 3 Dec 94)

Panama

According to the Health Ministry and Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama has 382 cases of classic dengue fever. An official report states that Rio Abajo corregimiento has the largest number of cases in Panama City, while Pueblo Nuevo has the least. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p 52)

Official sources said today that another person has died from AIDS. According to the latest Health Ministry figures, 788 AIDS cases have been registered in Panama Province—of which 456 have died. The reports show that 327 of the victims were between 20 and 24 years of age and most of the cases have been detected in Panama City and the San Miguelito and western Panama areas. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Nov 94 p 74)

Central American, Mexican Health Report Through 9 December

PA1012030794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Central American and Mexican public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 9 December.

Panama

A spokesperson for the Health Ministry Epidemiology Department reported that 43 AIDS cases have been registered in Chiriqui Province in the past few days. Of that number, 29 have already died. The source added that there are 771 cases nationwide, 447 of which have already died. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 2 Dec 94 p 22)

A National Malaria Office spokesman reported 18 confirmed cases of classic dengue type 1 in Herrera Province. The people infected are mainly from the Chitre area. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 94 p 8a)

Nicaragua

According to a 5 December, Managua datelined report, the Health Ministry said today that five people died of cholera over the weekend, and 120 people have died from the disease so far in 1994. The spokesman also revealed that 134 new cases of cholera were reported over the weekend, thus bringing the total number of cases to 7,201. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2040 GMT 5 Dec 94) MEXICO

Health officials report a 50-percent increase in the number of dengue cases reported in the Veracruz region compared to the previous year. In the past two months,

1,075 new cases have been detected in Orizaba Municipality. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Dec 94 p 15)

The Attorney General's Office reported today that poultry infected with salmonella caused the death of two people and poisoned more than 100 policemen three weeks ago. The names of the people charged with selling the poultry were not revealed. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 8 Dec 94)

Central American, Mexican Health Report Through 16 December

PA1712020794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Central American public health and epidemiologic developments monitored through 16 December.

Mexico

According to a 7 December, Monterrey-datelined item, at least four infants under the age of five have died in Nuevo Leon State due to dehydration resulting from the microorganism called rota virus, which strikes the respiratory system and the digestive tract. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1907 GMT 7 Dec 94)

The Transition and Rebel Government Social Council and the Medical Commission of Nongovernment Organizations have reported cholera is affecting eight municipalities in Chiapas State and has left two people dead and 13 others hospitalized so far. It is believed the illness was contracted during a political rally in Tuxtla Gutierrez. Bishop Samuel Ruiz has said there are about 200 cases of cholera. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 Dec 94 p 6)

Nicaragua

Twelve new dengue cases were reported on 13 December, making the total now 16,975 cases. (Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 94)

Cholera cases during 1994 now amount to 124 for a total of 7,456 cases. (Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 94)

Panama

Health Ministry officials have reported 684 cases of malaria up to 3 December. Most are from Colombia and Costa Rica with 76 and 41 cases, respectively. The overall total of dengue cases has now reached 444 spread evenly throughout Panama. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Dec 94 p 54)

Chiriqui Province health authorities have reported 35 cases of Leishmaniasis in the province. The illness is transmitted by a mosquito bite and is not serious but causes serious skin ulcerations. Coffee growing areas,

such as Boquete and Rio Sereno, are where it is more prevalent. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Dec 94)

Southern Cone Health Report Through 1 December

PY0212001294

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored through 1 December.

Argentina

Health officials on 29 November reported that two new meningitis cases have been registered in the city of Santa Fe. The number of people infected thus rose to 356 in Santa Fe Province. During November, 18 cases were reported in this province. Neuquen Province officials have reported that 10 children died of meningitis so far this year. The number of cases has risen to 65 in this province so far this year. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2032 GMT 29 Nov 94)

Bolivia

National Anti-AIDS Program Director Maria Luisa Melgar has reported that 161 AIDS carriers have been detected since 1985, of which 95 have developed the disease. A total of 31 AIDS cases have been reported in 1994. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0030 GMT 30 Nov 94)

Brazil

The Health Secretariat has registered 353 new AIDS cases in Parana State this year, raising to 1,784 the total number since it was first detected in Parana State. The death toll stands at 1,118. (Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2153 GMT 29 Nov 94)

The Sao Paulo State Health Secretariat has reported that AIDS is killing 15 people per day in Sao Paulo State. Fatalities have risen to 22,425, and a total of 34,215 cases have been reported. Some 32.09 percent of cases were transmitted through syringes, 24.66 percent through homosexual contact, and 15.84 percent through heterosexual contact. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Nov 94 Section 3 p 4)

Chile

The National Anti-AIDS Commission has reported that 1,060 AIDS cases, 76 women, and 984 men, were registered by 30 October. Statistics show the Metropolitan region has the highest rate with an average 14.4 percent cases in every 100,000 inhabitants. Valparaiso and Antofagasta register 12.9 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 30 Nov 94)

Peru

The Health Ministry has reported that more than 1,100 bubonic plague cases were registered in the past six

months in various rural townships of the Lambayeque, La Libertad, Piura and Cajamarca Departments. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1714 GMT 28 Nov 94)

The Health Ministry on 28 November reported that there are between 20,000 and 40,000 AIDS carriers in Peru. A total of 1,112 cases have been officially reported, of which 40 percent have died. Between 2,500 and 3,500 people have been infected since the disease was detected in 1993. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0407 GMT 29 Nov 94)

Uruguay

Projections show Uruguay will become the first American country to eradicate Chagas disease in 1995. Some 37,000 Uruguayans are infected. A UN report shows the number of infected people has dropped from 22 percent to zero in most departments. The number of children affected dropped from 3.5 percent in 1985 to 0.8 percent. (Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Nov 94 p 7)

Southern Cone Health Report Through 8 December

PY0912135794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored through 8 December.

Argentina

Official statistics released by the Jose Penna Hospital Infectious Diseases Department show that 22 people have died of AIDS in the city of Bahia Blanca in the past few years. Some 66 people are infected with AIDS, of whom 22 have developed the disease, and 44 are carriers. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1325 GMT 2 Dec 94)

Health sources have reported that 276 AIDS cases and 106 deaths have been registered in Cordoba Province since the first case was detected in 1986. The mortality rate reached 38 percent by October 1994. The city of Cordoba has registered 66 percent of the cases, followed by Rio Cuarto Department, with 8 percent, San Justo Department, with 4.7 percent, Colon Department, with 4 percent, and Punilla Department, with 3.3 percent. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1224 GMT 2 Dec 94)

Peru

International AIDS Adviser Anibal Escalante Fortom on 26 November said in Arequipa that 2,000 of the 5,000 people infected with AIDS have died. He said the number of HIV-positive heterosexuals has increased. There are between 50,000 and 100,000 AIDS carriers in the country. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Nov 94 p A25)

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**Southern Cone Health Report Through 15
December**

PY1512222994

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored through 15 December.

Bolivia

A cholera outbreak has been detected in Tarija Department. The first two cases were registered in the township of Yacuiba. Regional Health Secretary Juan Victor Robertson said that the situation is under control. Over 2,000 cholera cases have been reported in Yacuiba, in the southern zone of Tarija, between 1993 and 1994. This zone has one of the highest epidemic rates in the country. (Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 6 Dec 94 p A29)

Chile

National Anti-AIDS Commission representative Dr. Anabella Arredondo has reported that 1,060 AIDS cases had been registered nationwide through 30 October, 76 of which are women and 984 men. The average accumulated rate is 8.2 people infected for every 100,000 inhabitants. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Dec 94 p C6)

Peru

A cholera outbreak has been registered in the township of Santa Cleotilde, capital of Napo District, Iquitos Department, where four people have died and over 150 have been infected with the disease in 15 days alone. Dr. Alfonso Guevara Chota, from the Santa Cleotilde health post, reported that 50 percent of the patients are children. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Dec 94 p B11)

BELIZE

IDB Finances Health Policy Reform Program

FL1212135894 Bridgetown CANA in English
1622 GMT 11 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Miami, Dec. 11, CANA—Belize Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel and Enrique V. Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB], Sunday signed documents providing US\$1.8 million in IDB non-reimbursable financing for a programme to design and implement health policy reforms in Belize.

The operation will increase the ability of Belize's Health Ministry to identify, design and evaluate strategies and policies to improve the efficiency, equity and quality of the country's health care system.

The programme includes the design and implementation of health policy reforms, the training of personnel, and the preparation of an investment project for 1997 that will apply the reforms.

CUBA

Ambulatory Care Program Begins for AIDS Patients

FL0512224994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Dec 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban program against AIDS involves extended specialized care for patients. Training for internists began on 5 December in the Pedro Curie Institute for Tropical Medicine. Reporter Elva Alvarez Carvajal interviewed Dr. Jorge Perez Avila, deputy director of the institute, and director of the Santiago de las Vegas Hospital.

[Begin recording]

Perez: Cuba has hospitals for the admission of seropositive patients, unlike anyone else, and now also has an ambulatory system. These two options give the program more flexibility. Additionally, the program is very humane because these seropositive patients, when ill or admitted, even continue to receive 100 percent of their salaries, depending on the case—or government aid. They also receive personal care, and specialized immediate health treatment, with the best currently available techniques.

The patients receive full care at no charge, which extends to their homes, through family doctors and nurses, and though the program is not perfect—there are few perfect things in life—it is still ideal in many aspects.

Alvarez: Family doctors and nurses are trained as part of the Cuban program against AIDS so they can provide basic care for these patients, independent of their specialty in (IPECAC). The seropositive patients who wish to do so may get their care from the ambulatory system. Out of 1,094 patients, 147 have joined voluntarily, indicating concern for their own and other people's health. [end recording]

Doctor Meets Press on Meningitis Vaccine's Success

FL1012030994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The contribution of several tens of millions of dollars through the marketing of the Cuban meningitis and hepatitis vaccines was one of the main results of the current year in the biotechnological field. Dr. Gustavo Sierra, president of the national group of vaccine experts and vice president of the Finlay Institute, outlined the achievements in this area during a news conference today. He pointed out that meningitis had ceased to be a health problem with the discovery of the vaccine. He highlighted the fact that Cuba was the first and only nation

in the world to control this sickness, which has an incidence of 0.07 percent for every 100,000 inhabitants within the treated population.

Of the more than 30 million doses of the vaccine applied in the nation and other regions of the world, no important reactions have been noted since all were benign, transitory, and reversible, and the frequency of appearance was smaller than that of other similar formulations. For example, he cited Colombia's results with the meningitis vaccine, which were positive. After three years of being applied to children up to six years of age in different areas, no new outbreaks had been detected and the epidemic was controlled. Meanwhile, in Brazil, the Cuban vaccine had an effectiveness of more than 80 percent in children under 7 years of age, and they are currently concluding the first phase of a massive campaign that includes 7 million doses.

DOMINICA

Officials Update AIDS, HIV Figures

FL0112234894 Bridgetown CANA in English
2035 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec. 1, CANA—Dominica on Thursday reported thirty-five deaths so far from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Health officials also disclosed that to date the island has recorded a total of ninety-nine cases of persons with the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. As Dominicans marked World AIDS Day Thursday, Health educator Dorothy James said that between January and October of this year, Dominica recorded sixteen AIDS cases.

James believes that persons here are aware of AIDS and are participating well enough in educational efforts aimed at dealing with the AIDS crisis. "People are responsive, people are turning out to the education sessions. (But) we need to do more, we need to go one step further," James told CANA. She would like to see the National AIDS Committee of which she is a member, along with the ministry of health, focusing on special groups in the community "to encourage them to look at the situation critically and assess what they themselves can do for themselves, their family, their friends and others in the community, to prevent and control the disease". She also wants to see more organisations assisting in the fight against AIDS.

JAMAICA

Ministry Considers Pharmacy Costs, Drug Stamp Proposal

FL0912021294 Bridgetown Caribbean Broadcasting
Union Television in English 1810 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by Sonya Chin, Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) correspondent; passages within quotation marks recorded; from the "CBUTV Caribvision News Feed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Chin: Less than 50 percent of the elderly receive pension. Some elderly persons receive only \$70 a month. This can barely cover their basic needs. The majority of the pensioners find it nearly impossible to fill prescriptions to control chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, epilepsy, and cancer. Medical practitioner Dr. Glean [not further identified] says doctors are having a difficult time trying to help the elderly manage their ailments because of the high cost of over-the-counter prescriptions:

Glean: "When the consumer comes in to buy the drug—the Panadol—all these costs—the CIF [cost, insurance, and freight], the duty from government, the GCT [expansion unknown] charged by government, the percentage markup by the distributor, the GCT paid by the pharmacy to the distributor, and the markup put on by the pharmacist for his profit margins—all of this is passed on to the consumer."

Chin: One elderly person, Mrs. (Prince), says she suffers from three chronic diseases:

(Prince): "I am waiting now to get another prescription, but I can't afford the money because it is over \$300 for 30 of that tablet. And I can't afford it right now."

Chin: Chamber of Commerce Executive Director (Donald Lynn) has stressed the need for the private and public sectors to come up with solutions:

(Lynn): "I think the minister was quite favorable to our presentation on it—that is, to remove the import duty on drugs and to remove the GCT on over-the-counter drugs—because it is an obvious way to go, where the people who need these supplies can get them at the lowest possible rate."

Chin: The public sector pharmacies charge a flat fee of \$50 on prescriptions, but many of these institutions are overcrowded and the time needed to ensure that the pensioner understands what to do is not available. But, what makes the cost of drugs so high? Presently, there are many drugs that are being charged 15 percent under the common external tariff, CET. Health Minister Desmond Leakey says these should be exempted. Mr. Leakey stressed that the government has recognized 40 critical drugs needed to treat chronic diseases:

Leakey: "Once we've got the duty down of the 15 percent, the agreed markup between ourselves and the trade, we would be able to bring the price down substantially."

Chin: Mr. Leakey also says the ministry is reviewing the drug stamp proposal and the Barbados Drug Service.

The proposal of the drug stamp would have the same guidelines as the food stamp.

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Director of the Barbados Drug Service (Lennox Prescott) spoke with JBC about the effectiveness of their program:

(Prescott): "The Barbados Drug Service provides drugs for all people in Barbados who see doctors in the government sector and for 80 percent of those in the private sector. These patients get their medication free of cost at point of service. We spend about 7.5 percent of the current health budget for the provision of these drugs. All the major groups of businesses are included, and all the people do get their medication free, of course. The program has been in effect now for 15 years, and it's working very well and is cost-effective and affordable for us."

Chin: The government needs to start a program soon. According to the Planning Institute of Jamaica, by the year 2000 at least 12 percent of the population will be over the age of 60.

Minister Expresses Concern Over National Health Care Costs

FL2312021894 Bridgetown CANA in English
1554 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 22, CANA—The Jamaican government is concerned about the high cost of keeping the nation healthy. Speaking at a forum here, Health Minister Desmond Leakey noted that while some Ja300 million is spent annually (1Ja; approx. 3 U.S. cents) in the treatment of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes as well as injuries resulting from domestic violence and motor vehicles accidents, only Ja60 million was collected through hospital fees. He stressed that the business of health should be taken seriously, calling on each Jamaican to take responsibility for personal health care, even as the government was making every effort to provide essential health services. Noting that prevention was key to implementing a more cost effective health care system, the minister said government had embarked on a programme to reinforce early immunisation for young children. He also pointed to the high cost of some 40 drugs identified for the treatment for hypertension and diabetes. On the issue of teenage pregnancy, the health minister appealed to teenagers to be wary of the consequences of indulging in sexual practices noting that, the resultant problems were having serious implications for the country.

Five Suspected Cases of Dengue Fever Reported

FL2212153594 Bridgetown CANA in English
2122 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 21, CANA - The Jamaican Health Ministry says five suspected cases of dengue fever have been reported here during the last two weeks.

Three have so far been confirmed by blood tests.

The state news agency JAMPRESS reported Dr. Karen Lewis-Bell, acting medical officer of health as saying that the Jamaican Health Ministry was increasing surveillance for the disease by monitoring fever cases in all parishes.

There was also a system in place to make regular checks with the government laboratory, to screen susceptible persons and to monitor and control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito which spreads the potentially fatal dengue fever.

The Health Ministry says Jamaica was making arrangements with the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) in Trinidad to test samples of blood to determine the strain of the fever currently in circulation here. [passage omitted]

ST CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS

Health Minister Reports Eight New Cases of AIDS

FL0112193694 Bridgetown CANA in English
1847 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Basseterre, St Kitts, Dec. 1, CANA—The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis recorded eight new cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in 1994, according to health minister Constance Mitcham.

She made the disclosure here on Thursday during a radio address commemorating World AIDS Day. She noted this was a significant reduction in annual figures recorded over the past four years.

However the minister pointed out that the problem of AIDS is still seriously affecting our people and warned that efforts must be made at all levels in schools, the churches, the societies, the communities as well as in the homes, to ensure that the number of cases does not increase.

She said that since 1984 44 cases of the deadly disease have been recorded 27 of whom have died. Mitcham stressed that emphasis must be placed on behaviour change to ensure further reduction in the number of cases here in 1995. She encouraged all to play their part as the spread of AIDS is not something that government alone can control. [passage omitted]

ST LUCIA

Eight AIDS-Related Deaths Reported July-September

FL2212175094 Bridgetown CANA in English
1711 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Castries, St Lucia, Dec 22, CANA - Eight persons in St Lucia died as a result of

AIDS between July and September, pushing total AIDS deaths on the official record to 55.

The director of the Ministry of Health's AIDS/STD (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome/Sexually Transmitted Diseases) programme, Debrah Nanan, issued another warning to St Lucians about the fatal condition Wednesday as the figures were released.

Despite the government's public awareness campaign about AIDS, the number of cases was continuing to rise, she said.

Up to September this year, there were 115 known cases of persons infected with the AIDS-causing HIV virus in St. Lucia, she said. The 115 cases comprise 59 males and 47 females.

Ministry Reports, Projects Figures on HIV, AIDS Cases

FL0212205494 Bridgetown CANA in English
1426 GMT 2 Dec 94

[By Ernie Seon; all quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Dec. 02, CANA—Health officials in St. Lucia are increasingly concerned about the rising number of St. Lucians infected by the AIDS disease.

Information made available to CANA from the ministry of health indicates that as of October 31 this year, 115 cases of individuals infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) have been reported to the ministry. Of this number there are 59+ men and 47+ women, giving a male and female sex ratio of 1.2:1.0, with the majority due to heterosexual transmission. Four recorded cases are due to prenatal transmission. The Ministry notes that this route of transmission can be expected to become more significant as the number of cases among women of child-bearing age rises. No cases have been reported as a result of blood transfusion in St. Lucia.

"There is a significant category, 16 per cent of 'unknown' cases, representing individuals who have lost contact with our system either through fear, migration, return to resident overseas or even death", says Debrah Nanan Director of the HIV/AIDS/STD programme in St. Lucia. She says the numbers quoted are cases reported to the ministry of health and really represent the "tip of the iceberg", as under-reporting is estimated to be at about 20 to 50 per cent.

Projections for the future in St. Lucia prepared by the ministry suggest that in the next 10 years, there will be a slow but steady increase in HIV and AIDS. Consultant

Pathologist Dr. Stephen King observes that this increase will not be obvious to the general public. However, he notes that after the decade has passed the stage will be set for a rapid increase in symptomatic HIV disease and AIDS. "Based on our projections it is conceivable that by the year 2010, 8,000 St. Lucians will have presented with HIV and/or AIDS and a further 10,000 will be infected", King warns. "It can be estimated that approximately 3,000 people of the 8,000 identified will have died by the year 2010", King added.

With the population of St. Lucia at this time estimated by the National Population Unit at 180,000, this would represent a figure of 4.5 per cent of the population having been identified with HIV and 10 per cent potentially infected. Eighty per cent of the infected is in the 15-64 age group meaning that approximately 15 per cent of this group, the working population will be infected, the projections suggest. "The consequences of this level of infection in the most productive age group are enormous", he said noting that the figures are in keeping with what is seen in some African countries today and as such may be realistic projections.

King says that given this situation, it is vital that strategies to be used to limit the spread of HIV be carefully thought out and implemented quickly. "Strategies must be implemented today to avoid the problem in 2005 and beyond. We cannot depend on the discovery of a cure at this time and we cannot afford to allow so many of our young people to become infected", he states.

Here, the AIDS hotline continues to educate the public at a slower but still steady rate. "More and more people are engaged in AIDS education and other modes of counselling are available other than the hotline", observes the STD officer here Dr. Marie Grandison-Didier. However, she said the hotline continues to play "a very necessary role" in St. Lucia, acting as a referral system for those "with greater needs than the hotline can provide for". Some patients receive support from their family or the community but a recurring problem is rejection by family. "In some instances, the family eventually provides care and support after counselling and persuasion by social workers and other members of the health team", she notes.

Health officials contend that the costs both direct and indirect associated with HIV/AIDS will pose a severe threat to the future development of any country, an effect which would be magnified in a small country such as St. Lucia. They point to the fact that recent gains made in the health sector in reducing the mortality rate associated with older diseases are expected to be significantly undermined.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Editorial Lists AIDS Figures, Urges Leaders To Broach Issue

FL0412211794 Bridgetown CANA in English
1512 GMT 3 Dec 94

[All quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 3, CANA—Following is the text of the editorial in Saturday's Express newspaper:

"Speaking at the International AIDS Summit held in Paris on Thursday, World AIDS Day, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said that the meeting was being held to declare a planetary emergency.

That shouldn't have come as a surprise. In Trinidad and Tobago we have been facing our own smaller but no less dire national AIDS emergency for years. AIDS-related illnesses kills over three people a week in this country. Worse yet, the disease kills people in their prime, in their most productive years: seventy per cent of AIDS-related deaths are in the 20-44 age group. The cost in human suffering and the extra strain placed by the disease on our already burdened health services are tremendous.

Those involved in treating people with AIDS do what they can. But even if we had all the health care resources we needed to care for those suffering from the disease, the best they can hope for is to delay the inevitable. There is no cure for AIDS, nor is there any prospect of one being found in the near future. It is essential that we do all we can to prevent, or at least to slow the spread of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

How are we doing?

Local government agencies and non-governmental organisations marked World AIDS Day on Thursday with an exposition and performances, entertainment and counselling in Independence Square.

At the launch of those activities, the executive director of the Family Planning Organisation, Hetty Sargeant, was critical of leaders who refuse to speak out on the issue of AIDS.

In support of her pleas for (our) leaders to speak out, Ms Sargeant might have quoted the powerful slogan of the AIDS activist Group Act Up: silence equals death.

There must be a reason why our leaders are unwilling to address the issue, but surely they can't feel that it's not an important one to this society, when it has been clear for a decade that we are under threat from AIDS?

And what about the response to those who do speak out?

Another speaker at the World AIDS Day exposition was playwright and anti-AIDS activist Godfrey Sealy, who appealed on behalf of homosexuals and the HIV-positive. These (?people), he said, were outcasts. Other speakers too stressed the need for compassion for those with AIDS.

The truth for Sealy's words became clear a little later.

How far our AIDS education campaigns have reached was demonstrated just around the corner, on Frederick Street. There, how much further we still have to go was shown in the response to a group calling themselves actors against AIDS. Accompanied by school children, as they walked in a silent procession to independence square they were met with jeers for those who passed.

It was a perfect illustration of what Sealy had said, and of the reason why the virus is continuing its progress. We know that the virus is being spread through heterosexual as well as homosexual contact, that increasing numbers of women and children are being infected.

Yet we continue to behave as if AIDS is someone else's problem, a disease that attacks "them"—homosexuals, drug addicts—and not us. Our attitudes are changing only slowly, while AIDS continues to spread."

Opposition Expressed on AIDS Hospice Tourism in Tobago

FL1212143294 Bridgetown CANA in English
1451 GMT 11 Dec 94

[By Renatta Mohammed]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 11, CANA—Officials of the Trinidad and Tobago National AIDS Programme have condemned a proposal to set up an AIDS hospice for foreigners in Tobago.

"It's definitely a no no," said Dr. Edward Addo, registrar of the San Fernando General Hospital.

Dr. Addo told CANA that while there is a need to assist AIDS patients worldwide, sex tourism was not the way to go. He said the proposal, which was submitted to the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) by a group called Association Aides-Them, should have been sent to the Ministry of Health.

Hochoy Charles, Tobago's secretary for health, reported that the unsigned proposal came from an address in Germany. The writer said he or she was born in Tobago.

Dr. Colin Furlonge, registrar of the Queen's Park Counselling Centre and Clinic said: "I was shocked to know that this proposal reached the THA, the press and the general public before it was even considered by the auspices of the Ministry of Health".

"While we need to provide care for people from all walks of life, we must all realise that there are certain repercussions that can result from the establishment of an international hospice," he added.

"If such a hospice were to be established, what do you do when your patients start feeling better and get the human urge to be a part of the society?" asked Dr. Addo. "Do you keep such a person under lock and key, how can you control their actions?"

Acting president of the Tobago Hotel Association, Carlos Dillon, told the Express newspaper last week that

while he acknowledged the existence of health tourism, it was difficult to control the behaviour of people. Foreigners, he said, could "...interfere with the rest of the island".

Michael Small, another of the association's executives, remarked: "Tourism and AIDS don't go together".

However, the THA is assessing a proposal by the District Health Services section of the Health Ministry to set up a hospice for local AIDS patients.

ALGERIA

Diphtheria Claims 30 Lives in Thirteen Provinces

LD2812133994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The urgent issue of health protection was the reason for a ministerial meeting yesterday headed by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, and included the ministries concerned with the health protection file for guaranteeing the integrative work in this sphere.

At the beginning, the council studied the situation resulting from the diphtheria epidemic, which has currently been registered in 13 provinces: Adrar, Batna, Bejaia, Biskra, Tipaza, Tizi Ouzou, Algiers, Djelfa, Skikda, Guelma, Tebessa, and Ghardaia.

Three-hundred cases were recorded through 25 December, with 30 people dead. This epidemic is attributed to the shortage in carrying out immunization in the remote and desert areas, and the recurrent scarcity of this substance over the recent years. [passage omitted]

Cholera, Diphtheria, Typhoid Reported; Five Dead

LD0311143094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A number of cholera and diphtheria cases have been reported in several places in Bejaia province [east of Algiers]. Following a visit to the region by a delegation from the health ministry, the governor of Bejaia township has taken a number of emergency health and quarantine measures to prevent the epidemics from spreading.

Youcef Cherfaoui, chief of staff of the governor of Bejaia, spoke to our colleague Ahmed Belaidi on the general health situation following the spread of these epidemics and the number of cases reported:

[Begin Cherfaoui recording]

Cherfaoui: There are 18 cases in the Sidi Aich hospital and we have transferred 17 cases to the Kattar Hospital in Algiers. Regrettably, there were five fatalities; three in the Sidi Aich hospital and two in the Kattar hospital.

Regarding the typhoid epidemic which has spread in Akbou municipality. So far, there are 114 suspected cases in the hospital; these people are being examined to determine whether they are infected with typhoid or with something else.

In Kharrata we have registered seven cases of cholera which warranted hospitalization; two of these people, however, have since left the hospital.

Finally, in Bejaia municipality itself, we have one case of cholera and nine cases of diphtheria. [end recording]
[passage omitted]

INDIA

World Bank Likens Local AIDS Scenario to Sub-Saharan Africa

BK0412144794 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES
in English 28 Nov 94 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's AIDS problem may become as massive as that of Africa and jeopardise development efforts, according to the World Bank.

In the sub-Saharan Africa three-quarters of the estimated 1 million people infected with HIV have not yet developed full-blown AIDS. But between 1995 and 2005, the World Bank predicts even assuming that not a single person becomes infected, some 8.3 million people will succumb to illness and death, tripling the region's AIDS burden.

India as well as Thailand, Brazil, and Haiti, "are just a few years away from a similar scenario," the World Bank predicts in a release on the eve of World AIDS Day December 1.

Some 17 million people the world over are infected with the deadly virus and "we think that about two million HIV positive cases are in India," said Mr David De Ferranti, director of the population, health and nutrition department at the World Bank.

Mr De Ferranti said in India, "the problem seems to be getting worse rapidly as with other countries."

Given that Asia and India are so much larger than other regions in terms of population, "very soon this region will have the most people with HIV," he said.

But he conceded, it was very hard to estimate the rate of growth of the incurable virus.

In some places in Africa it has risen to one in three adults though it would level at a lower rate in other places, Mr De Ferranti maintained. "But even one in 100 is too many for India," he said.

Mr De Ferranti said that denial was a "major stumbling block to progress," in dealing with the pandemic and so also was the issue of rights of women and their empowerment.

"It certainly could reach epidemic, catastrophic proportions in India. We say pandemic, because it does not go away like an epidemic does," Mr De Ferranti said.

By the end of this century more than 95 per cent of those infected with HIV will live in the developing world.

The majority of infections are projected to take place in Asia by the year 2000, the World Bank maintains.

In developing countries, where 80 per cent of all HIV infections occur, AIDS is striking at the very core of development itself, the World Bank asserts.

For India, Mr De Feranti added, "we do see that AIDS could have an important effect on the economy."

The World Bank estimated that for every 100,000 AIDS deaths, the loss to national income would be \$1 billion.

"As the pandemic gets worse the economy gets worse," Mr De Feranti concluded.

At the same time, he cautioned, "the liberalisation process (in India) does not have to result in cutbacks on important programmes. The knife needs to be used carefully."

The World Bank funded an \$84 million AIDS prevention project in India which began two years ago.

This is the only major project in South Asia and is part of the National AIDS Control project.

"A very powerful and underutilised resource is currently those who have AIDS," said Mr De Feranti. "They have good ideas and are very articulate and could take policy makers by the collar and alert them," he emphasised.

India has a much better health system than Africa, Mr De Feranti pointed out, so the main area to be focused on is education, he said.

The World Bank estimated a slowing of growth of income per capita of 0.6 per cent a year in the 10 worst-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

However, "given that a billion people in the developing world live on about a dollar a day, this relatively small decline in income can translate into a serious worsening of living standards for many of the world's poor," the Bank said.

Blood Bank Testing Standards, Procedures Questioned

*BK0412142194 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
27 Nov 94 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi—The India Red Cross Society's record in ensuring blood safety has been questioned. This has forced committee appointed by the Supreme Court to ensure blood safety to reconsider its suggestion that all blood banks in the country be placed under the Red Cross' supervision.

Some blood transfusion experts claim that the Red Cross sometimes collects blood from dubious sources where the infection rate can be as high as 41 per cent. For example, in September, its largest branch, the Red Cross Blood Bank in Delhi, held a blood donation camp in Tihar Jail.

Hospital sources reveal that of the 25 samples of this collection that were tested in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, 10 were infected—five with hepatitis, three with syphilis and two with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), which causes AIDS.

The 40 per cent infection rate is not surprising, since safe blood depends on safe donors. Morality may have very little to do with clean blood—it the donor's lifestyle plays an enormous role in it.

Tests alone can never ensure blood safety, since there is a possibility of false negatives and sometimes when the infection is newly acquired, it does not show up in the tests. So choosing donors from jails has never been the norm around the world. The Red Cross seems unaware of this.

On a different vein, the Red Cross may also need to modify its technical aspects. Although it has some of the finest equipment in the country, it does not ensure 100 per cent tested blood.

For example, it does not test for malaria, a disease that may take on epidemic proportions any time. And although it does conduct tests for hepatitis B, it ignores the equally dangerous hepatitis C, the test for which is yet to catch on in India.

So the Red Cross needs to pull up its socks if it is to be the nodal agency for blood banking in India. According to sources in the Health Ministry, it has been asked to identify its funding requirements and technical advisory committee has been set up to judge the feasibility of the proposal.

The proposal was made by a three-member committee, comprising two senior health ministry officials and noted social activist, Mr H.D. Shourie. The committee was set up by the Supreme Court following Mr Shourie's public interest litigation filed in 1992, regarding the unsatisfactory condition of blood banks in India.

There is a crying need for some kind of disciplining authority in a country where around 30 per cent of blood banks are unlicensed, and the committee hoped that as the nodal agency, the Red Cross would be able to fulfill this need.

If approved, it will make a non-governmental organisation (NGO) the final supervising authority in matters of blood banking and transfusion. And by placing all blood-banking activities in the hands of an NGO, the Government may be more successful in involving the private sector in health matters, than it has been earlier. It may also draw foreign funds.

Unlike any other NGO, the Red Cross has a country-wide network of health services. Supporters claim it has a lot of credibility, and its reach is not restricted to centres of power in India alone.

Besides, it already has about 50 blood banks all over India. And the biggest blood bank in the country is the one the Red Cross operates in Delhi.

However, critics claim that the Red Cross may have the network but lacks the expertise. And since blood safety is essential to check the galloping spread of AIDS in the

country, one hopes that the government takes every precaution before making it the supreme authority in supervising blood banking.

IRAQ

Health Ministry Releases Figures on Mortality Rates

JN2812122494 Baghdad INA in English
0900 GMT 28 Dec 94

[All figures as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Dec. 28 (INA)—The unjust embargo imposed on Iraq has caused the death of 384,022 people since August 1990 and up to the end of 1994, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Health.

The ministry's figures, confirmed by reports prepared by a number of physicians and specialists from Harvard University as well as the WHO and UNICEF who have visited the country, show that the number of children under five who had died since early 1990 and until the last months of this year was 146,438. Meanwhile, the number of children over five who perished in the same period had totalled 257,421.

In the meantime, the average monthly deaths among children under five was 743 (1990), 2289 (1991), 3911 (1992), and 4147 (1993). In January 1994, the number rose to 5437 and in October 4098.

The Ministry of Health said that over the period 1985-1990, the infant mortality rate dropped to 32 deaths per 1000 live births while the figure jumped drastically to reach 126 deaths per 1000 live births.

Reports also said that the continuation of the embargo has led to the spread of communicable diseases, including polio which hit 56 children in 1990, 186 in 1991 and 120 in 1992. There were also increases in cases of diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, German measles, tetanus, pneumonia, mumps, cholera, typhoid, amoebic dysentery, and other diseases.

The embargo has also led to a drop in laboratory tests which went down from 17,928,604 in 1989 to 1,423,592 this year, said the report.

In the meantime, the rate of babies born with a weight of less than 2.5 kg has gone up under the embargo.

JORDAN

Health Minister on Increase in AIDS Cases, Prevention

JN0112112194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1-2 Dec 94 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The number of people in Jordan with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) now stands at 116, of which 34 are non-Jordanian, Health Minister 'Arif al-Batayinah announced Wednesday.

On Nov. 8 the ministry had announced that 110 people were infected with the Aids virus. At that time the ministry said that 30 non-Jordanians were among those infected.

The release of the current figures came on the eve of the World Aids Day, Dec. 1, called for annually by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which said in a statement that the observance of the day was part of the global effort to meet the challenge of AIDS, an epidemic that continues to worsen in all regions of the world.

Dr. al-Batayinah said Jordan was not considered a country facing a genuine AIDS problem according to WHO standards, and the number of AIDS cases was still very limited.

Referring to ministry safeguards to contain the spread of the disease, Dr. al-Batayinah said it was cooperating with various institutions and the media in teaching the public ways of protecting themselves against this killer disease.

He also said that blood transfusions in Jordan are conducted under strict control to stem any spread of the disease.

Noting that the ministry's efforts were focusing on school-children, the minister said that teachers are playing a very important role in spreading awareness especially as students could travel to study abroad, where most AIDS cases are contracted.

To help prevent the spread of AIDS in Jordan all non-Jordanian workers coming to the Kingdom have to undergo AIDS tests, especially those wishing to stay in the country for more than a year.

In the course of a national campaign to spread public awareness, the health ministry has formed special teams which tour the country to provide information about AIDS prevention methods and distribute pamphlets and booklets to households and schools.

In its statement, WHO said World Aids Day highlights AIDS prevention and control activities already under way and forges new channels of communication about AIDS.

It said World AIDS Day is now an annual event in most countries, helping to build a lasting worldwide effort to stop AIDS.

In his statement Wednesday, the health minister quoted WHO figures as estimating the number of AIDS cases worldwide at 13 million.

He said that WHO believes the figure would rise to 30 or 40 million by the year 2000, noting that two-thirds of patients were found to be youths under 25 years of age.

RUSSIA

Moscow and Moscow Region Show Largest Number of AIDS Cases*LD0112133394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1235 GMT 1 Dec 94**[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 1 TASS—At present there are 831 HIV-infected Russian citizens. AIDS virus has been registered in 53 out of 89 subjects of the Russian Federation. Moscow and the Moscow region have the greatest number of AIDS cases. They are followed by Rostov-on-Don, Kalmykia, Volgograd and St. Petersburg.

These statistics were released today by the Russian Ministry of Public Health and medical industry in connection with the world day of anti-AIDS struggle.

The presence of HIV-infection was officially admitted for the first time in 1986. So, AIDS statistics in Russia go back to that date. The first AIDS patient, a Soviet interpreter who worked for some time in Tanzania, started a whole chain of HIV-infected people. In 1987 their number was 102, including 80 foreigners. After that the incidence of AIDS increased. In 1988 the number of HIV-infected people reached 269, the majority of whom were foreigners.

Today the AIDS situation in Russia, including the number of AIDS patients and HIV-infected people, resembles that in the United States in the first half of the 80s. In comparison with other countries, the situation is not bad, and one of the reasons for it is the "iron curtain" which did not allow Soviet citizens to travel freely abroad.

AIDS Prevention Center—HIV Infection 'Steadily Growing'*LD3011161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1359 GMT 30 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although the incidence of HIV cases is low in Russia, the infection is steadily growing, the Russian Center for the Prevention of AIDS told Interfax on the eve of the World Day Against AIDS marked on December 1.

The center reports that during the ten months of 1994 the number of registered HIV patients increased by 18 percent. The worst affected areas are Moscow (167 patients), St. Petersburg (77) and the Moscow Region (54). Eighty nine percent of the HIV patients got infected during sexual contacts, including 59 percent during homosexual contacts.

According to the same source, since 1987, when the HIV infection was registered in Russia for the first time, more than 130 million blood samples have been tested and 831 HIV carriers have been revealed, including 278

children. The AIDS diagnosis has been made for 149 patients, including 92 children; 130 AIDS patients have died.

Four hundred and fifty five foreign citizens who stayed in Russia have tested HIV positive.

In the estimate of the World Health Organization, there are about 17 million HIV carriers and around a million AIDS patients in the world. Almost 800,000 patients have died of this so far incurable disease.

AIDS Test Producers Resist Change in System of Prevention*LD3011161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1359 GMT 30 Nov 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "The Russian producers of test systems and their patrons in certain medical circles are interested in saving the current system of AIDS prevention, based on an all-out testing of the population and thoughtless squandering of the budget," Head of the Russian Center for the Prevention of AIDS Vadim Pokrovskiy told Interfax on the eve of the World Day Against AIDS marked on December 1.

He said that "under the pressure of these forces and of the lobbyists in parliament, the State Duma made an amendment in the draft federal law on AIDS prevention, which provides for the compulsory HIV testing of all foreigners arriving in Russia."

In his opinion "such a requirement is difficult to implement." "Moreover, it will inflict considerable losses on the economy given the potential reduction in the inflow of foreign tourists," he added. He also said that compulsory testing should only apply to foreigners who arrive in Russia for studies or work.

An author of the draft law, Professor Pokrovskiy believes that the dispute about this document reflects "the struggle between the supporters of the current and new concept of AIDS prevention." "It would be more reasonable to save the \$50 million which will be annually spent on tests for the mere stating of the fact, and invest this sum in research and medical education of the population," said Pokrovskiy.

Latest Statistics Show 831 HIV-Positive Cases Tested*LD1412135394 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1114 GMT 14 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aleksandr Galeysov, the Russian Health Ministry's chief specialist on AIDS believes that "there should not be compulsory testing on HIV and AIDS" in the country. Addressing newsmen in Moscow Tuesday, he stressed that such is the Russian Health Ministry's stance.

Galeysov was one of the makers of an AIDS bill, passed by the State Duma in early December.

According to him, the draft law focuses on prophylactic. One of its key provisions is exclusively voluntary checks on AIDS for Russian nationals.

However, once the bill had been amended by State Duma deputies, it became a discriminatory anti-humane piece of legislation, discriminatory not only toward Russians but to foreigners coming to Russia as well, Galeyusov feels.

He drew attention to clause 9 of the bill, saying that "foreign citizens... arriving in Russia for work, study or on other grounds, are subject to compulsory medical examination." In his opinion, in line with the definition "on other grounds", diplomats and tourists can also be subjected to compulsory AIDS check.

At the news-conference, representatives of Russian Health Ministry and non-governmental anti-AIDS organizations also agreed that President Yeltsin should repeal the State Duma's bill.

According to official statistics, there have been 831 HIV positive tested persons in Russia, 278 of them children. 149 have been pronounced AIDS patients, 92 of them children. 130 people have died, 69 of them children.

AIDS Law May Be Enacted Despite Yeltsin Veto
MM1912121794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Dec 94 p 5

[Feature comprising reports by Sergey Mostovshchikov and Leonid Mlechin under the general heading "Russian National Struggle Against AIDS"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The President Might Veto It...

According to sources close to the country's leadership, the fate of the new law on the struggle against AIDS on the territory of the Russian Federation, which is unprecedented in its stupidity, will be decided in the next two-three days. Actually, it cannot be ruled out that the president will veto this document which is capable of putting up yet another iron curtain around our country which is the healthiest in the world.

The initial version of the law—work on which extended over almost three years—on Russian national methods to overcome the basically sexually-transmitted disease AIDS seemed absolutely sensible. The provisions about preventive measures against infection in particular made the logical recommendation that blood and organ donors, foreigners, and persons without Russian citizenship entering the country for a lengthy period, should undergo a mandatory test for the presence of HIV in their organisms.

However, when the document was being discussed in the State Duma, the description of methods in the Russian struggle against the infection was amended, leaving a significant number of absolutely healthy representatives

of power here in a state of shock. They claim that, as a result of lobbying by certain structures producing systems for AIDS testing, the law is obliging all foreigners and persons without Russian citizenship entering the country even for 5 minutes to provide test samples for representatives of the Russian Federation.

It is difficult even to imagine what effect this latest legal innovation by our motherland will have on the rest of the world's population if the law comes into effect. Losses to the Russian economy just in the area of tourism may, according to the most modest estimates, run into millions of dollars. According to Sergey Shpilko, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Physical Culture and Tourism, purchase of tours to our country at the largest tourist market in London have fallen sharply due to reports about the real possibility of the document on the struggle against AIDS being ratified. Foreign companies are refusing in droves to sign contracts with us for 1995.

"Nowhere else in the world does such a lack of civilization exist," Sergey Shpilko said about the new Russian move. "AIDS tests are carried out upon entry to Korea and Iran, but only if the foreigner is entering for a period of more than three months. Test samples are taken in the United States, but only from persons applying for permanent residence. Any attempt to test all foreigners entering our country will actually lead to the aforementioned iron curtain being put up around it. You should, after all, understand that this is not just a question of tourism. We are also talking about scientists, sportsmen, journalists, and business people. Last year alone about 4 million people visited Russia, which is almost one and a half times more than the year before last! But if the law is adopted they will simply stop coming here."

According to information from Sergey Shpilko, the situation can still as yet be remedied. In any case, he has received verbal promises from officials on the president's staff that Boris Yeltsin will veto the law and the document will be sent back for finalization. What is more, senior officials in the Federation Council have assured the minister that they will not permit the law to be adopted in any form which might scare the world more than AIDS itself, which our healthy democratic country is trying to combat.

Mostovshchik...But Even Then the Law Will Come Into Force

Federation Council Head Vladimir Shumeyko stated firmly that the upper chamber will reject the law—first, the document violates human rights; second, it will be necessary to spend too much money on the mandatory testing of a sizable section of our population.

However, there has been no rigorous analysis of the disputed draft law by the senators: The Federation Council has not discussed it. After the two weeks allotted

to the upper chamber in accordance with the Constitution for it to express agreement or disagreement with its colleagues from the Duma, the draft law simply found its way to the president's desk. The Duma Health Care Committee is very satisfied with this turn of events.

Having listened to the views of defenders of human rights, prominent medical practitioners, and companies involved in tourism, Boris Yeltsin may veto the draft law and send it back to the Duma. But the Duma voted almost unanimously in favor of this law and the two-thirds majority required to overturn the presidential veto will easily be obtained.

Thus, it can be said that a new strategy in the struggle against AIDS will begin in Russia from the start of the new year. Bela Denisenko, chairman of the Duma Health Care Committee, explained to IZVESTIYA that the government should adopt a new regulation concerning the issue of visas. With the exception of high-ranking official delegations, and possibly people on short trips to relatives or on tours, foreigners will not receive Russian visas without certification of their not being infected with HIV.

According to Bela Denisenko, tests have shown that incidence of infection is 100 times higher among foreign citizens on Russian territory than in the country as a whole. There are even infected diplomats from third world countries; they will have to leave the country. No exceptions will be made for bearers of diplomatic passports.

"HIV-positive foreigners do have rights, but it is the rights of Russians about which we should be concerned most of all," according to Bela Denisenko, under whose leadership the law was produced. "While an epidemic is raging all over the world, the situation here will be relatively satisfactory; you'll see who was right."

Critics of the law are also concerned about the health of Russians and claim that it will prove impossible to shut ourselves off from AIDS. A certificate bearing the stamp "healthy" is no guarantee at all due to the testing systems' unreliability. Apart from this, a great number of our fellow citizens are now crossing the border and they could import the virus tax-free much better than foreigners. The main point is that in Russia itself there are already a fair number of infected people.

"The number one task," Professor Doctor of Medicine Vadim Pokrovskiy, leader of the Russian Scientific Methodological Center for the Prevention of and Struggle Against AIDS, said to IZVESTIYA, "is to halt the virus' progress within the country."

Doctors at the Moscow City Center for the Prevention of and Struggle Against AIDS told IZVESTIYA that last year the number of people infected by the normal sexual route increased sharply; the illness has gone beyond the high-risk groups and now nobody can consider himself safe from AIDS. The only way to save ourselves is by changing society's sexual habits—this is the strategy

recommended by WHO. Prof. Pokrovskiy considers that the money which will now go on mandatory testing in execution of the law should have been spent on this.

In the opinion of many specialists, the adoption of the Duma's draft law on the prevention of AIDS means that the state has armed itself with the wrong strategy in the struggle against this illness.

Kursk Oblast Short of Money for Anti-AIDS Measures

MM1912125994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 17 Dec 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Viktor Metchikov: "Virus Not Expelled"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kursk—Two carriers of the HIV virus—a male student and a female student who had traveled to Kursk from Africa—were recently identified during a planned inspection of foreign citizens at the oblast AIDS prevention consultative and diagnostic center. Their country's embassy, on receiving this information, recalled the young man and woman from their studies and, clearly, have already sent them back home.

But M. Kaledin, the center's chief physician, was not firmly convinced that the dangerous virus has been "expelled" from Kursk.

In connection with the emergence of a real threat, the chief physician, as he put it, is most concerned at the moment about the unsatisfactory state of preventive work as a result of the catastrophic shortage of money. The oblast program to combat AIDS was ratified in August, and it was planned to channel 174 million rubles [R] from the oblast budget this year into implementing its measures. But only R79 million has been allocated—and even that money is only on paper, in actual fact not a single ruble has been received. As a result there is no chance to engage in extensive medical education among young people, to publish literature, to fill the preventive center's vacancies for specialists, or to acquire the necessary equipment and modern communications systems.

Yet, M. Kaledin recalled sadly, the cost of treating a single AIDS patient is many times greater than the sum required by the oblast for the more or less effective preventive treatment of this 20th-century plague.

Russians Warned of Influenza B Epidemic in January

MM1612142994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "This Tenacious Virus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the very near future Russia can expect an influenza epidemic involving the B virus which struck last fall and winter as the most likely cause, Yevgeniy Belyayev, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological

Supervision, stated at a conference of chief health officers of Russia's cities and territories in Moscow.

According to Belyayev, the experts are forecasting that the epidemic will begin in January 1995. The category of the population most vulnerable to infection, in their opinion, will be children aged under 14.

Lobby Group Exposes High Abortion, Pregnancy Death Rate

*MM1212155594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Dec 94 p 2*

[Report by Svetlana Tutotskaya: "Russian Health Ministry Totally Ignoring Mothers and Children"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The international foundation for the protection of the health of mothers and babies has published statistics on the health of children and women. It is common knowledge that the infant mortality rate has been rising in our country in recent years. It is three to four times higher here than in other European countries. What is less well known is that the mortality rate among mothers (including pregnant women) is approximately 20 times higher in our country than in European countries.

But here is a figure which will shock even those of us who have become used to "somber" statistics: According to the experts' conclusions, in over 80 percent of these cases the woman's death could have been avoided. Around 80 percent of serious complications resulting in death occurred as a result of the most flagrant errors of diagnosis or the incompetence of gynecologists and midwives. Journalists were told these facts by Prof. Aleksey Baranov, president of the foundation. One-third of women who die are abortion casualties. That figure, the professor said, is unparalleled in the civilized world and is incomprehensible in the direct sense of the word. There is an increase in the proportion of pregnant women who die at home before help can reach them.

The official figures show that in 1993 the number of abortions performed in Russia was 200,000 lower than in 1992. But this small reduction in the number of abortions (in all 2.97 million were carried out in 1993) cannot reflect the true picture. The fact is that the private commercial clinics where many abortions are carried out do not provide statistics. [passage omitted]

Asked what the government's role is in all this, the professor replied: When the foundation asked for help in setting up a joint venture for the production of contraceptives with the Dutch firm "Ergamon" and the "Akrikhin" joint-stock company, the Health Ministry replied: That is unnecessary; all these things are provided for in the president's "Children of Russia" program. But the foundation presented a detailed argument in support of its request in a letter to the Finance

Ministry, explaining among other things that the president's program has not been fulfilled and that there is no intention in it to fully resolve the family planning issue.

Vital work to protect the health of pregnant women and regular postnatal home visits have been stopped, and this is equally harmful to the health of women and babies, Baranov stated. Money is no longer being allocated for this purpose and the Health Ministry has again not taken an active stand.

We are ready to cooperate actively with those parties and organizations which declare the health of mothers and babies a paramount value, the professor stated. First and foremost parties like "Women of Russia," he said.

Diphtheria Incidence 'Four Times Higher' Than in 1992

*MM0712135794 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA
in Russian 7 Dec 94 p 3*

[ITAR-TASS report under the "Epidemics" rubric: "Diphtheria Rife in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The incidence of diphtheria in Russia remains high. The 1993 level was four times higher than that of 1992, and 20 times higher than the annual average in the eighties. This was announced by Mikhail Narkevich, chief of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry Infectious Diseases Department, at a ministry collegium today.

Diphtheria has been recorded in all regions of the country, and in areas like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Maritime Kray, Siberia, the Far East, and several other places the incidence is higher than the federal average. Specialists say that this situation is due to the unsatisfactory vaccination of the population, especially children. The inadequate training of doctors is leading to late diagnosis with the result that the disease is developing into severe forms. Scientific research into the spread, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diphtheria is unable to cope with the epidemic situation which has developed.

Viral Hepatitis Outbreaks in Several Areas

*MM0712140994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 7 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by Vladimir Berezko: "Hepatitis on the March"]

[FBIS Translated Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was told by the Ministry of Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters press service that several outbreaks of viral hepatitis have been recorded in the country.

Some 433 people, including 130 children, have already been hospitalized in Ufa. Twelve pupils have fallen ill at a boarding school in the settlement of Nekrasovka, Sakhalin Oblast, and 70 people, 46 of them children, have been hospitalized in the rayon center of Perevolotsk, Orenburg Oblast.

Figures for Flu, Diphtheria Incidence in Moscow

MM2712115994 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Flu Still in Evidence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Doctors are expecting an increase in the incidence of influenza in the capital by the second half of January and early February, Radio Ekho Moskvyy has reported from the Moscow State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision Center.

The current incidence of influenza is 30 percent down on last year's level.

On the other hand, diphtheria levels are almost double last year's figures. There were 158 fatal cases in Moscow in the first 11 months of the year. Some 3,760 diphtheria patients were recorded, and three-fourths of them were adults.

GEORGIA**Ajaria 'Main Center' of Diphtheria Epidemic**

MM161211194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov: "One More Problem To Add to Georgia's Woes—Diphtheria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—Since the start of this year 235 cases of diphtheria have been recorded in Georgia. Thirty-three of them proved fatal.

The main center of the epidemic is Ajaria, where 137 cases have been recorded. There are currently 30 diphtheria patients undergoing treatment in the capital's republic infectious diseases hospital alone. According to assessments by medical specialists, a new outbreak is possible in the very near future since less than one-third of the republic's inhabitants have been vaccinated.

KAZAKHSTAN**Twenty AIDS Cases Registered**

LD0112155094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a World Health Organization resolution, every year 1 December is called Anti-AIDS Day. The call to fight against AIDS is not a simple thing. Under the circumstances of economic instability many branches of our economy are undergoing much greater difficulties than those in the developed countries. The situation with AIDS in the republic is on the same level as in other republics: 20 people suffering from AIDS have been registered and two women have died from this disease. We call on all branches of the economy, joint stock companies, and concerns to fight against AIDS. According to sources of

information, every day throughout the world 5,000 people catch AIDS. A law on preventing AIDS was adopted at a session of the republic's Supreme Soviet on 5 October this year.

LATVIA**Sixty Diphtheria Cases Registered in East; Two Dead**

LD0112100594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Approximately 60 cases of diphtheria are currently registered in Daugavpils district. Two cases ended in death in Jekabpils district this autumn. [passage omitted]

MOLDOVA**Thirty-Four AIDS Carriers Registered**

AU0212112094 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1737 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 1/12/1994—The International Anti-AIDS Day is marked throughout the world today, under the aegis of the World Health Organization (WHO). Moldova is marking it for the fifth time.

Stepan Georgita, the director of the National Anti-AIDS Center, said that since 1989 a total number of 34 virus carriers have been registered in the republic. Out of them, 22 persons were foreigners, mainly Africans. According to Moldovan law, they were deported from the country. Besides them, four ill persons were found over the same period, three of whom died.

One baby got infected from his ill mother, and both died, Georgita said.

Unlike in many developed countries, the AIDS spreading process in Moldova is approximately five years lagging 'behind the wave.' However, the center's forecasts are alarming, because Moldova has become an open state.

UKRAINE**Committee Releases Statistics on AIDS**

LD0112220194 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Summary] A report from Ukraine's national committee for the fight against AIDS under the Ukrainian president states that, as at 1 October, 382 people had registered as HIV positive and there were 31 AIDS patients and 15 AIDS-related deaths in Ukraine, with over two-thirds being cases of infection transmitted sexually. No cases of HIV infection have been registered in Ivano-Frankovsk, Volhynia, Rovno, and Khmel'nitskiy oblasts.

UZBEKISTAN

Rules Issued on AIDS Testing

LD0312175994 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO
in Russian 1 Dec 94 p2

[Unattributed article: "The Rules Are Strict But Necessary"]

[FBIS Summary] There are 15 centers and 92 AIDS diagnostic laboratories functioning in Uzbekistan. The republican health ministry center for preventing and combating AID has established a laboratory which checks samples sent in from the regions and also acts as a training center for medical personnel. Over the last seven years more than 12 million people have been tested and 34 HIV positive cases identified, eight of whom are Uzbek citizens and receiving treatment. The remainder were foreigners who have been deported. Three of the Uzbeks were infected abroad.

Any citizen of Uzbekistan can ask to be tested for AIDS at polyclinics on condition of full anonymity. However, certain people are obliged to undergo the test in accordance with the new medical examination rules, namely:

- donors of blood, blood plasma and other biological fluids and tissues at every donation session;
- foreign citizens and stateless persons;
- foreign visitors staying in Uzbekistan for more than 15 days, except for diplomatic officials, who shall be examined with their consent or in agreement with the Foreign Ministry. Those holding a certificate noting HIV negative status are to undergo a repeat examination every three months;
- students coming to Uzbekistan, who shall be examined within seven days of arrival, upon return from vacation, and every three months and during their annual medical tests;
- people arriving without a certificate from countries which have a high level of HIV and AIDS infection;
- as epidemiological and clinical research indicate as necessary;
- people who have had sexual contact or contact with the blood and other fluids of anyone infected by HIV or AIDS.
- Uzbek citizens returning from countries with a high level of HIV and AIDS infection, if they stayed there more than 10 days, and from other countries if they stayed over one month, shall be examined once 3-6 months after returning;

—people sick with diseases indicative of AIDS.

People in high-risk groups, as well as their children, shall be examined compulsorily. These are:

- drug addicts taking drugs intravenously;
- other drug addicts and toxin addicts who have been repeatedly detained by Internal Ministry bodies;
- homosexuals and bisexuals;
- people with a promiscuous life style;
- people with no fixed abode or job and vagrants taken to reception and distribution points and remand centers;
- persons kept in corrective labor establishments shall be examined three months before release; workers in establishments and places which provide services for foreign citizens; aviation, railway and motor transport workers who work on international routes are to be examined as part of their medical tests.

The results of HIV tests shall be kept strictly secret.

Foreigners discovered to be infected with HIV shall be deported to their home countries.

Stricter Controls Introduced To Prevent Spread of AIDS

LD0112224894 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2033 GMT 1 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The republic's chief sanitarian physician Timur Iskandarov declared at a press conference on Thursday in Tashkent that as many as 34 AIDS carriers have been discovered in Uzbekistan over the last 7 years.

In his information, eight of them are citizens of Uzbekistan. Three people have brought this infection from abroad. In two cases husbands infected their families and died, their wives are ill with the AIDS.

The remaining 26 people are foreigners who came from Asia and Africa. They were deported from Uzbekistan after an examination which showed a positive AIDS reaction.

As Iskandarov pointed out the republic's Public Health Ministry developed and confirmed new principles of medical examination in order to prevent AIDS spreading in the republic. These rules include toughening of control over those who come and leave Uzbekistan and regulate number of people who should undergo an obligatory medical examination.

The press conference was devoted to the International Day for Struggle against AIDS.

CYPRUS**Six More AIDS Cases Registered**

*NC0301192895 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY
in English 1711 GMT 3 Jan 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 3 (CNA)—Six more AIDS carriers, five Cypriots (four men) and a foreign woman, were identified in December, according to official statistics.

All six contracted the virus from sexual intercourse.

This brings the total number of AIDS carriers to 193, 114 of them are Cypriots, the remaining 79 foreigners.

The vast majority of Cypriot sufferers (97) are males and only 17 women. 99 of them live in Cyprus and 15 abroad.

Thirty three of these carriers have developed the disease.

Twelve of those who have developed the disease are receiving medical treatment at Nicosia General Hospital, according to the same official announcement.

So far, 19 AIDS carriers have died from the disease while three others have died from another cause. The most vulnerable age group is the 20-29 year old with 49 cases, followed by those between 30-39 years old with 43.

Seven families in which both parents carry the virus have been located so far in the island.

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